



OPINION 6
CAN TOUGHER LAWS
ALONE PROTECT WOMEN

WORLD 9
UKRAINE BANS TELEGRAM APP
BECAUSE OF RUSSIAN THREAT

MONEY 10
PIYUSH GOYAL TO REVIEW INDIA,
ASEAN FTA IN GOODS

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

Late City Vol.34 Issue 163
* Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4

Established 1864

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



INDIAN MEN BEAT
IRAN TO INCH
CLOSER TO GOLD
12 SPORTS

Political meltdown over Laddus of Tirupati



Union Minister JP Nadda addresses a press conference on 100 days and achievements of MoHFW, in New Delhi, Friday
Ranjjan Dimri/Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As the Tirupati Laddu row snowballed into a major national controversy over the alleged use of animal fat in the Tirupati prasadam, Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Friday said that he has spoken to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and sought the available report for review. Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi has also called for an investigation into the allegation, which has sparked concern among devotees. Nadda stated that the Food

Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), an apex food regulator, will investigate the matter and take action according to food safety standards. "The matter would be examined by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), and suitable action will be taken," he said. The Cabinet Minister was responding to a query at a press conference held on the achievements in the health sector during the first 100 days of the Modi Government's third term. The FSSAI is a statutory body under the administration of the Union Health Ministry.

Naidu has claimed that animal fat was allegedly used for making Tirupati laddus during the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy Government. It had sparked a massive political controversy with the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) accusing the Chief Minister of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) circulating a lab report to back the claim. Nadda further said that he got to know about the issue through social media. "I will also speak to the State regulators and take their views." "Whatever the Andhra Chief Minister has said is a matter of serious concern. A detailed inquiry is required and the culprit should be punished," Joshi told reporters on the sidelines of the Global Food Regulators Summit in Delhi. TDP spokesperson Anam Venkata Ramana Reddy had on Thursday claimed that adulteration was confirmed by a Gujarat-based livestock laboratory in ghee samples provided by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, which manages the famous Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple.

Continued on page 2



Eight killed, dozens wounded as Israel hits Beirut again

AP ■ BEIRUT

An Israeli airstrike hit a neighbourhood in Beirut on Friday, killing at least eight people and wounding nearly 60 others, Lebanese health officials said, the first such Israeli attack on Lebanon's capital in months. The Israeli strike on Beirut's crowded southern suburbs hit during rush hour, as people headed home from work and children left school. Local networks broadcast footage that showed at least two buildings completely flattened and the main street ravaged in Dahiyeh, just kilometres from downtown Beirut where Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group holds sway. An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss behind-the-scenes security matters, said the strike targeted Ibrahim Akil, a senior Hezbollah military official. It was not immediately clear whether he was killed.

An official close to the Hezbollah militant group, also speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorised to brief the media, confirmed that Akil was supposed to be in the building when it was hit. Akil has served as the head of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force and Jihad Council, the group's highest military body. The US State Department has sanctioned Akil for his alleged role in carrying out the 1983 bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut and blamed him for directing the taking of American and German hostages in Lebanon during the 1980s. Earlier on Friday, Hezbollah pounded northern Israel with 140 rockets and the region awaited the revenge promised by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, for this week's mass bombing attack on pagers and walkie-talkies belonging to Hezbollah members.

Continued on page 2

Give up violence or face action: Amit Shah to Naxals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday appealed to Naxals to give up violence, lay down arms and surrender, saying an all-out operation will otherwise be carried out against them. Addressing 55 victims of Naxal violence of Chhattisgarh virtually from here, Shah also asserted that Maoists will take their last breath by March 31, 2026, and will be eliminated by then. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided that Naxal violence and ideology will be wiped out from the country. "I appeal to Naxals to give up violence, lay down arms and surrender as the militants in the northeast have done. If you do not listen, then an all-out operation will be carried out soon to end the menace," Shah said, adding that Naxalism is a threat to both humanity and the internal security of the country. Shah said security forces have achieved significant success in their operations against Maoists as the problem is now confined to just a few districts of Chhattisgarh. "The Central Government is committed to completely eliminate Naxalism by March 2026. Due to the policies of the Modi Government, Left Wing Extremism has now been restricted to a few districts in



Home Minister Amit Shah pays tribute to the statues of Santal rebellion leaders Sidhu-Kanhu Murmu before flagging off the BJP's 'Pariwarta Yatra', in Sahibganj district, Friday
PTI

Chhattisgarh," he said. The Home Minister said Maoists once had planned to establish a corridor from Pashupatinath (Nepal) to Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) but that was destroyed by the Modi Government. Shah said those advocating the human rights of Naxalites should also consider the human rights of those who suffer because of Naxalism. He said the Ministry of Home Affairs will chalk out a comprehensive welfare scheme in the next three months for Naxal violence-affected people of Chhattisgarh, in close coordination with the State Government. "We will help you in whatever way we can through our welfare measures in jobs, healthcare and other areas," he said.

Shah said that through developmental schemes in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, the Modi Government has given a message to the Maoists that one who saves human lives is greater than the one who kills. He also interacted with the 55 victims of Naxal violence from Chhattisgarh. They came under the aegis of the Bastar Peace Committee. The Bastar Peace Committee also screened a documentary, highlighting the plight of the people affected by Naxals in Chhattisgarh. Some of the victims shared their stories with the Home Minister. "With the complete elimination of Left Wing Extremism, Bastar will once again become beautiful, peaceful and developed," Shah said.

EOW arrests relative of BharatPe co-founder



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has taken Deepak Gupta, close relative of BharatPe co-founder and former Managing Director (MD) Ashneer Grover in connection with the alleged misappropriation of funds from the fintech firm. Deepak Gupta, who is married to the sister of Madhuri Grover, wife of Ashneer Grover, was taken into custody on the evening of September 19 and was produced in court on Friday. Elaborating on the case, DCP Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Raja Banthia said, "It is informed that on the complaint of M/s Resilient Innovations Pvt Ltd (Bharat Pe), a case on May 10, 2023 under sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 408 (Criminal breach of trust by clerk or servant), 409 (Criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by

banker, merchant or agent), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 467 (forgery of valuable security, will, etc), 471 (Using as genuine a forged document or electronic record), and 120-B (Punishment of criminal conspiracy) of IPC was registered at EOW police station." He added that it has been alleged that Grover, Madhuri Jain Grover and other officials were involved in criminal misappropriation of company's funds, on the basis of various fabricated documents. "Accordingly, payments were made to non-existent vendors and HR consultancy firms causing a wrongful loss of Rs. 81 Crores approx to the complainant company," the DCP said. A senior officer said that Gupta was also named in the FIR which was registered and added that Gupta is being interrogated. "During investigation, it was revealed that accused Deepak Gupta was the Procurement Head at that time in the complainant company and he used to acknowledge the bogus deliveries of standees etc on the basis of which the payments were made to the non-existent firms," Banthia added.

Continued on page 2

Gems, jewellery sector in India vulnerable to money laundering, terror financing: FATF

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) report pointed out that India's gems and jewellery sector is vulnerable to money laundering, terrorist financing as large amounts of funds are not showing ownership trails. The Paris-headquartered global body said in its mutual evaluation report for India released on Thursday that the money laundering (ML) risks associated with the "smuggling and dealing" in precious metals and stones should be "further developed" given the size of this sector in the country. The report said there were approximately 1,75,000 DPMS (dealers of precious metals and stones) in the country but its apex body--Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEP) only had 9,500 members. Certificate of being a GJEP member along with tax registration is mandatory for undertaking import or export of gems trade in India.



Currently, there are "shortcomings" in risk understanding, particularly relating to money laundering threats arising from smuggling and dealing in precious metals and stones and also human trafficking, it said in its 368-page report. "The ease with which PMS (precious metals and stones) can be used to move large amounts of funds without leaving an ownership trail combined with the size of the market in India means there are vulnerabilities associated with their use as a tool for ML/TF (terrorist financing)," the report said.

Continued on page 2

Woman truck driver traveling across the country

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Thanks to a homemaker in Ettumanoor near Kottayam, the profession of truck drivers has shot up by leaps and bounds not only in Kerala but even across the country. Gone is the traditional image of truck drivers who could be spotted in any crowd thanks to their handle-bar mustachioed face with rough looks. Their position is being taken over by young professional truckers including women and most of them are either graduates or post-graduates. Any doubt? Meet Jalaja Ratheesh, the mother of two grown up girls who could be seen driving her Bharat Benz 12-tyre trucks through the National Highway connecting Kanyakumari with Kashmir.



For 24 days in a month, Jalaja would be behind the wheels of her truck transporting goods from Kochi to far corners of India. She has driven through most of the States except some of the North Eastern States. "It was in response to a challenge thrown at me by my husband Ratheesh that I

took up this profession. Ratheesh is a truck driver and after our marriage I asked him whether I could accompany him in his trips. He told me that he would welcome me to join him on the condition that I too should drive the giant truck," said Jalaja while negotiating the hair pin curves in

Kerala's Main Central Road. Within two years, Jalaja successfully completed her driving tests and presto, she holds a heavy duty licence. It was only with the heavy duty licence Ratheesh allowed her to board the cabin in his truck and since then there was no looking back for Jalaja, a history graduate. Meanwhile, Ratheesh's fleet of trucks increased from one to 17. "I had this love to see new places all over India and the job of a truck driver came handy. The travelogues authored by SK Pottekkat, the Jnanpith award winner, made me passionate about travelling. The trips from Kerala to north Indian States either through Karnataka or Tamil Nadu were a new experience," Jalaja told *The Pioneer*.

Continued on page 2

Life Cover or Loan Liability feels like Happy Responsibility

My life, my way!

UIN: 512N355V01 • Plan No. 875

A Non-Participating, Non-Linked, Life, Individual, Pure Risk Plan

A pure risk plan, ensuring a risk-free tomorrow

- Benefit of an attractive High Sum Assured rebate
- Special rates for women
- Higher cover at a lower premium rate
- Flexibility to choose from two benefit options: Level Sum Assured and Increasing Sum Assured

UIN-512N357V01 • Plan No. 877

A Non-Participating, Non-Linked, Life, Individual, Pure Risk Plan

Safeguard your asset against loan liabilities

- Minimum Sum Assured ₹50 lacs (Relaxation available in certain cases)
- Attractive High Sum Assured rebate
- Special rates for women

Download LIC Mobile App

Visit: www.licindia.in

Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827

Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch/Visit our website www.licindia.in

Follow us: LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

Voter turnout in J and K: EC comes out with latest figures

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday came out with a latest figure of voter turnout of 61.38 per cent in the 24 assembly constituencies in the first phase of Jammu and Kashmir polls. This is higher than the corresponding 60 per cent turnout figure recorded in 2014 assembly polls and 50.3 per cent polling in 2024 LS polls. While the total male turnout stood at 63.75 per cent, total female turnout, data showed was at 58.96 per cent. Third gender turnout was recorded at 40 per cent, EC data showed.

Highest voting was recorded in Indralwar seat with about 82.16 per cent followed by Kishtwar seat, with about 78.24 per cent voter turnout, according to the poll panel. Tral assembly constituency recorded lowest voter turnout of 43.56 per cent, followed by Pampore of 45.01 per cent and Rajpora 48.44 per cent. Pulwama recorded 50.78 per cent voter turnout. The constituencies that voted on September 18 included Tral, Pulwama, Rajpora, Zainapora, Shopian, DH Pora, Kulgam, Devsar, Dooru, Kokernag (ST),



Anantnag West, Anantnag, Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Shangus-Anantnag East, Pahalgam – all in South Kashmir, once a militancy hot bed. Bahihal recorded voter turnout of 71.28 per cent, Ramban 69.67 per cent, Doda West 75.98 per cent, Doda 72.49 per cent, Bhadawah 67.12 per cent, Paddernagseni 80.67 per cent, Kishtwar 78.24 per cent, Pahalgam 71.26 per cent, Shangus-Anantnag East 56.72 per cent, Srigufwara-Bijbehara, 60.43 per cent, Anantnag 45.62 per cent, Anantnag West 48.73 per cent, Kokernag (ST) 62.25 per cent, Dooru 61.62 per cent, Devsar 57.76 per cent, Kulgam 63.44 per cent, DH Pora 68.88 per cent and Shopian 58.51 per cent.

Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing first assembly election in ten years with first phase held peacefully in Union Territory (UT) on September 18. The last assembly poll was held in the erstwhile state in 2018. This election also marks the beginning of three-phase assembly polls – the first such exercise in the erstwhile state since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. The 24 constituencies voting today are spread across Pir Panjal - 16 in Kashmir and eight in Jammu region. Over 23 lakh voters were scheduled to cast their ballot in phase one of the Jammu and Kashmir polls, to decide the fate of 219 candidates, including 90 independents.

SC asks Centre to give names reiterated by Collegium for judgeship

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to provide information about the numbers and names reiterated by the apex court Collegium for appointment as judges in higher judiciary with reasons why they were not considered so far and at what level they were pending. The direction was passed by a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud while hearing a PIL seeking a direction that a time limit be fixed for the Centre to notify the appointment of judges recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium.

"The Supreme Court Collegium is not a search committee (for judges) whose recommendations can be stalled," said the bench which also comprised Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. The bench asked Attorney General (AG) R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, to provide it with a list of names reiterated by the Collegium and say "why they are pending and at what level". "If you can please make a list of the names reiterated and why it is pending and at what level it is pending... Show us why it is pending," the CJI said. The bench said some appointments



are now in the pipeline and "we expect it to come very early". It then adjourned the hearing on the PIL, taking into account the request for postponement by the Attorney General. The PIL filed by advocate Harsh Vibhore Singh has also sought a direction to plug the 'zone of twilight' of there being no time for notifying the Collegium's recommendations for the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary. The plea said that in the absence of a fixed period, "the Government arbitrarily delays notifying appointments thereby trampling upon judicial independence, imperilling the constitutional and democratic order and disparaging the majesty and sagacity of the court". Lawyer Prashant Bhushan referred to the name of senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, who has not been appointed as a High Court judge despite reiteration by the apex court Collegium.

UP Minister expresses anger over Rahul Gandhi remarks made during his US visit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh Minister Asim Arun on Friday expressed anger over Leader of Opposition of Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's remarks on reservation made during his America visit and demanded his immediate resignation, along with an apology to the country's Schedule Caste (SC) community.

Arun stated, "As a leader of a political party and the leader of the opposition, it is reasonable for Rahul Gandhi to criticize the government or the BJP, but criticizing the country itself is unforgivable," adding that the Congress's stance against reservations is not new. "They had also opposed the 1956 report by Kaka Kalekar, and the then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, rejected the report in 1961, writing to all the Chief Ministers to not implement reservations," he alleged.

Northwest Delhi BJP MP Yogendra Chandolia mentioned that before the Lok Sabha elections, the opposition accused the BJP of planning to end reservations. "But the public did not fall for this and voted BJP into power for the third time. Whenever reservations are discussed, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar will be remembered. The removal of Article 370 has benefitted the



residents of Kashmir, and the Valmiki community, which was previously confined to sweeping jobs, is now pursuing medical and engineering studies," he said. Chandolia mentioned that after the Lok Sabha elections, when the opposition leader waved a four-page booklet in Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made it clear that as long as the NDA government is in power, reservations will not be harmed in any way. "Congress is not only against reservations but also against Dr. B.R. Ambedkar," he asserted. "Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir had prevented the people there from benefiting from reservations. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked to end this. The Congress party's views on

reservations have emerged time and again, with Rajiv Gandhi in 1985 saying that reservations promote "idiots," opposing the Mandal Commission in 1990, and favoring Muslim reservations," he said. The MP added that this is despite Dr. B.R. Ambedkar clearly stated that reservations should not be granted based on religion. SC Morcha Delhi President Mohan Lal Gihara said, "The Delhi BJP SC Morcha strongly opposes Rahul Gandhi's statement, and an FIR has been filed against him at the Punjabi Bagh police station." He demanded legal action against Rahul Gandhi and assured that they will take his anti-SC views to the masses, alongside a protest scheduled for Saturday.

Atishi all set to become Delhi CM today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader Atishi is all set to be sworn in as the new chief minister of Delhi today. Unlike outgoing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's grand swearing-in ceremony at Ramlila ground, she is expected to take oath at a low-key event at Raj Niwas. According to sources, the oath ceremony will take place at 4:30 pm. The new Chief Minister will prove majority in the Delhi Assembly and its session has been called by the ruling AAP dispensation on September 26-27. A day after the swearing-in-ceremony, Kejriwal will be holding

"janta-ki-adalet" at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Sunday, where he will exhort the voters to bring him back in the 2025 Assembly elections so that he can again serve them as the chief minister. With the AAP declaring names of five ministers, lobbying is on within the party for the sixth slot in Atishi's cabinet. While four old faces are going to retain their berth in the new cabinet, the AAP has so far declared the name of only one fresh Dalit face that would also be part of her new cabinet. AAP MLA Mukesh Ahlawat is going to be the new face in the Delhi cabinet, others to be retained include Gopal Rai, Saurabh Bharadwaj,



Kailash Gahlot and Imran Hussain. There is suspense whether one more MLA will be inducted in the new cabinet. Besides the chief minister, a maximum of six more ministers can be inducted in the Delhi cabinet.

Since the tenure of the chief minister and the new entrant will be brief as Delhi Assembly polls are due in February next year, there are chances that Ms Atishi's cabinet may include only five ministers. A senior AAP functionary said that several party legislators are lobbying to get a berth in the new cabinet. "But no decision has been taken whether to include one more minister in the new cabinet," he added. Ahlawat, MLA from Delhi's Sultanpur Majra, is being inducted to fill the vacancy created following the resignation of social welfare minister Raaj Kumar Anand. Anand resigned from the Kejriwal government and quit

AAP in April. Rai, Bharadwaj, Gahlot and Hussain, who are part of outgoing chief minister Kejriwal's council of ministers, will be in the new Cabinet as well. The oath ceremony of the new chief minister is going to be a "low-key affair" given the circumstances of Kejriwal's resignation. Atishi herself has said Kejriwal's resignation was an extremely sad moment. After winning the Assembly polls, Kejriwal's oath ceremonies were held at Ramlila ground in presence of thousands of people. "Since Atishi is going to be the chief minister till the results of the next Assembly elections are announced, there is no need to hold any grand ceremony.

Motorcyclist dies after crashing into SUV being driven on wrong side in Gurugram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

In a horrifying accident a 23-year-old motorcyclist lost his life after he crashed into an SUV driven on the wrong side of the road in Gurugram on Sunday. The accident took place around 5:45 am on an upscale Golf Course Road in DLF Phase-2, police said on Friday. The footage, which was also circulated widely on social media, shows the biker riding his bike at a high speed and crashing into the SUV. The victim was identified as Akshat Garg from Pochanpur in New Delhi's Dwarka, was wearing safety gear, including a helmet and gloves, while riding his motorcycle. His friend, 22-year-old Pradyuman Kumar, was riding 100 ft behind him on another motorcycle. The crash was captured on a GoPro camera taken by Kumar. The SUV driver, Kuldeep Kumar Thakur (25), is a resident of Ghitorni and



the co-founder of a PR company. The 17-second video shows Garg speeding as he tried to make a turn, only to be hit by a black SUV. The collision resulted in a loud crash. The SUV driver was arrested but was released on bail almost immediately. "Akshat was taking a slight turn when suddenly a Mahindra XUV 3XO appeared from the wrong side and collided with the bike head on. The impact was such that Akshat was thrown off his bike behind the car. The front of the SUV was wrecked," Kumar told the police.

Delhi BJP OBC Morcha stages protest outside Congress HQ

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP OBC Morcha staged a protest outside Congress headquarters over Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi remarks on reservations during his recent visit to America demanding an apology from him. They warned that protests would continue nationwide if Rahul Gandhi does not apologize for his statement against the OBC community and burnt his effigies of Rahul Gandhi as a mark of anger. Addressing the protesters, South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri stated that there is widespread anger among the backward classes while emphasising that reservations, provided by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, are an integral part of the Indian Constitution. Highlighting that India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, belongs to the OBC community, and under his government, a large number of ministers also come from backward classes, Bidhuri noted that several prominent leaders, like the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, also hail from OBC backgrounds, and the Modi government granted constitutional status to the OBC Commission. "The Modi government has introduced several welfare schemes for the backward communities, such as the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, which provides loans between Rs 1,00,000 and Rs 50,000 for small businesses. Additionally, financial assistance ranging from Rs 1,00,000 to Rs 3,00,000 is being made available for the upliftment of the OBC, SC, and ST communities," he said. Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva criticized Rahul Gandhi's behavior, accusing him of acting according to PR company instructions when in India.

Woman truck driver traveling...

From page 1

She is accompanied by Ratheesh and daughter in the trips. Ratheesh turns videographer once Jalaja takes control of the vehicle. The journeys made by the family are shot as features and posted in the social media through their blogs. "We cannot set apart more time for sightseeing because of the deadline in delivering the goods. Still, we manage to shoot the landscapes, village fairs, temples, churches and eateries serving different cuisines," says Jalaja. Ratheesh and Jalaja carry their own

ingredients for cooking on roadsides. "We do not miss homely foods as we stock the vehicle with sufficient rice and other ingredients that last throughout the trip," said Ratheesh. Though the lives of truckers are laden with dangers and accidents, this couple or their daughter have not faced any major untoward incidents. "There were some instances like a group of ruffians trying to assault us in Karnataka-Maharashtra border, somewhere in Bijapur. Similarly, we were held up in a road block in Kashmir for almost six days during one of the trips because of an

accident. Otherwise driving along the highways and countryside are a pleasant experience," said Jalaja. When asked about the safety of women truckers, Jalaja said she did not face any threats from anyone during the trips. "We have fixed a time schedule for driving and rest. This keeps us safe in all respects," said Jalaja who is planning to write a book about the India which she discovered. "I assure you that it would be about an India, hitherto unheard and unseen. The country is undergoing a revolution, a silent revolution," said Jalaja.

Gems, jewellery sector in India...

From page 1

The report recommended that India should include "deeper" qualitative and quantitative data and typologies from domestic and international sources on the money laundering risks associated with precious metals and stones smuggled into and circulating in India, when undertaking future risk assessments on DPMS and gold and diamond smuggling and the associated money laundering risks. The FATF said similar action was required to deal with human trafficking cases. "Understanding of money laundering threats arising from trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling and ML/ CFT risks from smuggling and dealing in precious metals and stones can be further developed. Effective domestic coordination and cooperation on AML/ CFT issues occurs at both the policy and operational levels," said the report. A more detailed action plan that provides more "granular" mitigation measures, which lays out clear priorities and benchmarks for implementation, would strengthen responses, it said.

The report said that there could be a possibility that this sector (PMS) may have "higher risks" with criminal networks operating cross-border not being investigated and captured by law enforcement reporting. "Given India's position as a leading consumer of gold and gems and producer of refined diamonds, India's authorities should continue to monitor fraud and smuggling evasion techniques and associated ML as well as consider collecting further data and typologies so that investigating authorities can continue to dedicate resources to address ML threats in a targeted manner," the FATF recommended. The report said it found that precious metals and stones play an important role in Indian tradition and culture and continue to be store of value for large proportion of the population. India is currently the world's second largest consumer of gold, the largest importer and exporter of gold jewellery. It also has one of the largest industries for polishing of diamonds and gems, and jewellery manufacture with the sector constituting about seven per cent of the GDP.

EOW arrests relative...

From page 1

In August this year, the EOW had arrested Amit Kumar Bansal, who allegedly was one of the members of the non-existing firms that had received payments of Rs 72 crore from the then directors of BharatPe between 2019 and 2021. Upon interrogation, Bansal also corroborated to Gupta's role. "His involvement in the case is also corroborated from interrogation of accused Amit Bansal who was arrested earlier is and presently in judicial custody," he said.

BharatPe has accused Grover and his family of causing losses to the firm to the tune of about Rs 81.3 crore through illegitimate payments to bogus human-resource consultants, inflated and undue payments through pass-through vendors connected to the accused, sham transactions in input-tax credit and payment of penalty to Goods and Services Tax (GST) authorities, illegal payments to travel agencies, forged invoices and destruction of evidence. "Further investigation is in progress in the matter," the DCP stated.

Eight killed, dozens wounded...

From page 1

Hezbollah said that its attacks had targeted several Israeli military sites along the border with Katyusha rockets, including multiple air defense bases as well as the headquarters of an Israeli armoured brigade they said they'd struck for the first time. The Israeli military said that 120 missiles were launched at areas of the Golan Heights, Safed and the Upper Galilee, some of which were intercepted. Fire crews were working to extinguish blazes caused by pieces of debris that fell to the ground in several areas, the military said. The military didn't say whether any missiles had hit targets or caused any casualties. Another 20 missiles were shot at the areas of Meron and Netua, and most fell in open areas, the military said, adding that no injuries were reported. Hezbollah said that the rockets were in retaliation for Israeli strikes on villages and homes in southern Lebanon, not two days of attacks widely blamed on Israel that set off explosives in thousands of Hezbollah pagers and walkie-talkies. On Thursday, Israel said its military had struck "hundreds of rocket launcher barrels" in southern Lebanon, saying that they "were ready to be used in

the immediate future to fire toward Israeli territory". The army also ordered residents in parts of the Golan Heights and northern Israel to avoid public gatherings, minimise movements and stay close to shelters in anticipation of the rocket fire that eventually came Friday. Hezbollah and Israel have exchanged near-daily fire since October 8, a day after the Israel-Hamas war's opening salvo, but Friday's rocket barrages were heavier than normal. Nasrallah on Thursday vowed to keep up daily strikes on Israel despite this week's deadly sabotage of its members' communication devices, which he described as a "severe blow". At least 20 were killed in the attacks and thousands were wounded when pagers, walkie-talkies and other devices exploded in Lebanon on Tuesday and Wednesday. The sophisticated attacks have heightened fears that the cross-border exchanges of fire will escalate into all-out war. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied involvement in the attacks. In recent days, Israel has moved a powerful fighting force up to the northern border, officials have escalated their rhetoric, and the

country's security Cabinet has designated the return of tens of thousands of displaced residents to their homes in northern Israel an official war goal. Fighting in Gaza has slowed, but casualties continue to rise. Overnight, Palestinian authorities said that 15 people were killed in multiple Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip. Those included six people, including an unknown number of children, in an airstrike early Friday morning in Gaza City that hit a family home, Gaza's Civil Defence said. Another person was killed in Gaza City when a strike hit a group of people on a street. Israel maintains that it only targets militants, and accuses Hamas and other armed groups of endangering civilians by operating in residential areas. The military, which rarely comments on individual strikes, had no immediate comment. Gaza's Health Ministry says that more than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed in the territory since Hamas' October 7 attack. The ministry doesn't differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count, but says a little over half of those killed were women and children.

Political meltdown over...

From page 1

He showed the purported lab report, which apparently confirmed the presence of "beef tallow", "lard" and "fish oil" in the sample. The sample receipt date was July 9 and the lab report was dated July 16. While the allegation has been vehemently denied by the opposition YSR Congress Party, a former priest of the temple on Friday said that animal fat has been allegedly used in the prasad for years and informing the board led to no action. "I noticed this many years

ago. I put it before the concerned authorities and the chairman of the trust board. But they did not care. It is a lonely battle for me but now, the new Government has taken power and has promised to clear all the mess," he told a news agency. The temple body managing the super-rich shrine on Friday revealed it has come across sub-standard ghee and presence of lard in samples tested for quality, echoing claims first made by Andhra Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu two days ago.

With the fingers of accusation being pointed at the previous regime over the issue, former CM and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy described the matter as "diversion politics," and slammed it as a "concocted story". Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which manages the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple, asserted there was presence of 'Lard' (pig fat) and other impurities in the ghee, citing a lab report. TTD Executive Officer J Shyamala Rao said lab tests had revealed the presence of

animal fat and lard in chosen samples and the board was in the process of blacklisting the contractor who supplied 'adulterated' ghee. A lab value indicated the sample was adulterated with lard also, Rao said while addressing a press conference in Tirupati. "All the four reports of samples gave similar results. So we immediately stopped (receiving) the supplies. And the blacklisting of the contractor was initiated and the procedure to impose penalties would also be initiated. Now, the legal

process will start," he said. The EO highlighted that the suppliers took advantage of a lack of in-house testing facility. The TTD administers the popular hill shrine that attracts lakhs of devotees throughout the year. During an NDA legislative party meeting on Wednesday, Naidu, chief of the ruling TDP, claimed that the previous YSRCP Government did not even spare Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple and used substandard ingredients and animal fat for making the popular sweet, known for its unique taste.

To bolster women safety, LG orders illumination of dark spots within fortnight

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further strengthen systems to ensure safety of women in the national capital, Lt Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena has ordered identification of dark spots in Delhi and illuminate them within a fortnight.

He also directed a drive to identify 500 women willing to drive public buses, during the 19th Meeting of the Task Force on Women Safety in Delhi on Thursday, Raj Niwas said on Friday.

Giving details, officials said at the outset, reviewing the status of dark spots in the city which was discussed in the earlier meetings, the LG called for an immediate 15-day special drive in all Departments and Offices of Delhi government to identify the available dark spots in the area and set it right within a fortnight.

Considering such sites as the most vulnerable spots, Saxena asked for "before and after" pictures of this campaign to be sent to LG Secretariat so that it can be monitored. Simultaneously, the Delhi Police was also asked to do a



fresh audit to identify the dark spots in the city, especially near bus stops. It was informed that Safetipin Audit had identified 1,406 dark spots that needed to be illuminated. The MCD Commissioner informed that of these, 1,158 dark spots have been illuminated. The LG expressing concern directed the Commissioner MCD, to complete the work within the next one month.

The LG also asked the Task Force to identify 500 women in the city who would be interested in taking up driving of public transport so that they can be trained. This initiative aims to replicate the success of the "Drone Didis" programme. The Transport Department informed that so far there are 660 women drivers in three-wheeler autos, 96 women drivers in DTC buses along with 1100

bus conductors. The Transport Department also informed that panic buttons in 1121 buses have already been installed but it needs to be integrated with emergency call number 112. The LG instructed the concerned departments including the Transport Department to solve this issue and ensure that all safety measures are put in place and made functional. Saxena directed the

Transport Commissioner to personally look into the issue and resolve it in a stipulated timeline.

Sharing the data, the Delhi Police informed the LG that 10,000 AI-enabled CCTV cameras have been installed at strategic locations in the city and 15 all-women PCR Vans had been placed to help women in distress. Fifteen Cyber Crime Police Stations have also been made functional in the city. The Delhi Police's ongoing campaigns, including "Nirbheek," "Nazuk," "Shistachar," and "Parivartan," are crucial for raising awareness and promoting behavioural change.

The Delhi Police informed that till August 2024, counselling of 18,102 male students has also been done to step in fostering a culture of respect and gender equality. The LG asked the Delhi Police to ensure that the persons in the PCR vans remain alert to deal it in real time in case any untoward incident takes place.

Saxena directed that all the floors of office buildings, hospitals and educational institutions must be monitored

with proper data collection and washrooms in all such buildings must be made clean and safe for their use by women. He also directed the Education Department to expeditiously revise the gender-sensitive curriculum, since the same had been pending for long.

The LG expressed concern over the underutilisation of "Sakhi One-Stop Centers" and called for urgent measures to address funding shortages and improve their functionality. Saxena underlined that even as policing could deter crime for achieving the larger goal of women safety and security, a comprehensive change in social mindset and basic approach of men towards women, needed to be brought about.

Those present in the meeting included Chief Secretary, and senior officials from the Home Department, Delhi Police, MCD, Transport Department, AR Department, Law Department, Health Department, Education Department, Revenue Department, PWD, apart from other officers of Departments concerned.

More than 2,500 violations reported through Traffic Prahari app in past 22 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

More than 2,500 violations were reported through the Delhi Police's recently relaunched Traffic Prahari application in the past 22 days. According to data shared by the traffic police, 7,242 people downloaded the mobile app and 3,128 new users registered themselves between August 28 and September 18. A total of 2,513 violations were reported during that period, the data showed.

Last month, Lt Governor VK Saxena directed the traffic police to upgrade and relaunch the Traffic Sentinel mobile app under the Traffic Prahari name from September 1. The Traffic Sentinel scheme enables citizens to be the eyes and ears of the police and help reduce the

number of traffic violations by reporting them. The mobile application under the scheme was launched in December 2015. The app had 1,86,142 (1.86 lakh) downloads, 80,777 registered users, and 3,98,424 (3.98 lakh) violations reported through it, the data showed.

The application empowers the citizens to report violations such as dangerous and wrong-side driving, defective number plates, improper parking or parking on footpath, misbehaviour or harassment by autorickshaw or taxi drivers, over-charging, red light jumping, refusal to go by autorickshaw or taxi drivers, triple-riding on two wheelers, using mobile phones while driving, violating stop and yellow lines, riding without helmets and driving without seat belts.

DUSU polls: ABVP, NSUI announce candidates Kejriwal to host Janta ki Adalat at Jantar Mantar



Ranjan Dimri



Ranjan Dimri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The stage is set for the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections, with eight candidates contesting for the post of president, five for vice-president, and four each for the posts of joint secretary and secretary in the central panel. The Office of the Chief Election Officer on Friday released the final list of 21 eligible candidates for the 2024-25 DUSU elections. The ABVP has nominated Rishabh Chaudhary for President's post; Bhanu Pratap Singh for Vice President's post; Mitravinda Karanwal for the

post of Secretary and Aman Kapasia for post of Joint-Secretary. Hailing from Sonapat's Gannaur, Chaudhary comes from a farming family and has completed his graduation in History and Political Science from Shyam Lal College and pursuing his studies at the Department of Buddhist Studies. Singh is originally from Haryana's Faridabad and has completed his graduation in Psychology (Honors) from Sri Aurobindo College where he was elected as the Secretary of the Student Union. Currently, he is a first-year student at the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi.

Mitravinda hails from Uttar Pradesh's Bijoor and is actively involved in various activities related to women's issues and has a special interest in social service. Currently, she is a third-year student of History (Honors) at Lakshmbai College where she was elected as the Secretary of the Student Union last year. Kapasia is originally from Delhi and completed his graduation in Hindi (Honors) from PGDAV Evening College. A national-level archer, he is pursuing studies at the Department of Buddhist Studies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Aman played a role by providing essen-

tial services to students stranded in 11 colleges of Delhi University. ABVP National General Secretary Yagywalkua Shukla said, "ABVP-led DUSU has worked continuously in the interest of students over the years, due to which the trust of students towards ABVP has been strengthened." He added that the candidates announced from the ABVP panel have done a lot of work to create a positive educational environment in DU, due to which they have been declared as DUSU candidates from the ABVP panel.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal who recently stepped down from the post in the wake of corruption allegations, will be holding "Janta ki Adalat" at the Jantar Mantar in the national capital at 11 am on September 22. This announcement came just days after Kejriwal resigned from the chief minister's post following his release from jail on bail in the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy case.

The "Janta ki Adalat" event is scheduled to take place at the very location where Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement had taken shape in 2011, which had brought Kejriwal into the national spotlight. Kejriwal has now chosen to address these allegations directly by returning to the same venue where his political journey began - Jantar Mantar.

It was at Jantar Mantar in 2011 that Kejriwal, then an



Ranjan Dimri

RTI activist, alongside Anna Hazare, had launched a nation-wide anti-corruption movement demanding the creation of a Jan Lokpal to curb corruption. The agitation had received massive public support from across the country and had played a significant role in laying the foundation for the AAP's emergence.

Praising Arvind Kejriwal for foiling BJP's "conspiracies", Senior AAP leader Gopal Rai said all the office bearers will have to become like the party

convenor. "Arvind Kejriwal foiled all the conspiracies of BJP in the last 2 years and now it is a face to face fight. If Arvind Kejriwal is made the Chief Minister with a huge majority, then the country's respect will increase and the respect of the country's respect will increase and the respect of the conspirators will be denied. Therefore, all the office bearers will have to become Arvind Kejriwal. On September 22, 'Janta ki Adalat' (a public court) will be held at Jantar Mantar, which will

be addressed by Arvind Kejriwal," Gopal Rai said. While Kejriwal has not given any statement since his resignation on Tuesday, sources said he will take questions from the public about his decision at the event. Gopal Rai, who is also a Delhi minister, said the BJP fears AAP's new useful inventions in Delhi, based on which the party can form its government at the centre.

"When all the tricks of the BJP failed, they put Arvind Kejriwal in jail. Because as long as he is out, the work in Delhi cannot be stopped. Even after this, the work in Delhi did not stop. BJP demanded resignation from Arvind Kejriwal and said that the government can not run from jail," affirmed the senior AAP leader. Kejriwal had earlier expressed his intention to seek a public mandate on the Delhi excise policy case. "In two days, I will resign as chief minister. I will not sit on that [CM's] chair till the people announce their verdict.

AAP demands Government accomodation for outgoing CM Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday demanded a government accomodation for outgoing Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying he is entitled to it on account of being the convener of a national party. At a press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha said the party will be writing to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and hoped that it would provide the accomodation to the party's national convener in one or two days.

Kejriwal, who resigned as the chief minister of Delhi earlier this week, will move out of the official residence within 15 days, the party said earlier. Chadha said every national party was entitled to two resources, an office and an accomodation for its head, to

function from Delhi. AAP became a national party following the Gujarat assembly polls in 2022 in which it got some seats and a good vote percentage, he said.

The Centre provided AAP with an office after two years of struggle and the intervention of the court. AAP moved to its new office on the Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane in Mandi House last month, vacating its old DDU Marg office near ITO. "I urge the Centre to follow the rules without any delay and any political consideration, and provide a government accomodation to party national convener Arvind Kejriwal which is his and the Aam Aadmi Party's right," Chadha said. The presidents of the six national parties in the country, including JP Nadda of the BJP, Mallikarjun Kharge of the Congress and Mayawati of the

BSP, have been provided government accomodation in the national capital, he said. AAP's national secretary is writing a letter to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, he said, adding that he hoped the accomodation would be provided to Kejriwal without any "politically motivated" decisions.

"This demand of government accomodation as a resource is a right of AAP as per the law. The AAP has been fighting for its right since long," he said. Chadha also hoped AAP would not have to fight a legal battle for the government accomodation to Kejriwal. Kejriwal will "very soon" give up all the official facilities provided to him as chief minister after his resignation was accepted, Chadha said. After the oath of the new chief minister, he will start giving up the facilities, he said.

CM-designate Atishi urges city people to chose Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief minister-designate Atishi urged the people of Delhi, on Friday, to choose Arvind Kejriwal to prevent a BJP government from increasing power tariffs in the national capital, assuring that she would protect them during the next four months. Alleging that the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government had increased the charges to get a new power connection by up to 250 per cent, Atishi said it was important for the people of the capital to re-elect AAP to continue to enjoy cheap and uninterrupted power supply. Addressing a press conference, Atishi said in her short stint as the chief minister, she will try to "protect" the people of Delhi from BJP's "conspiracies" to increase electricity charges in the capital. "Delhi government provides



Ranjan Dimri

free electricity to over 35 lakh families while 17 lakh households get a 50 per cent discount on the power bills. A family consuming 400 units of electricity in a month, which is not covered under any subsidy, pays a bill of Rs 980 in Delhi. But in BJP-led states, the bill for consuming 400 units of electricity runs into thousands of rupees," alleged Atishi, who also held the charge of the power

department in the outgoing government of Arvind Kejriwal.

Even in June, when power demand was at its peak, Delhiites were provided with an uninterrupted power supply, while the residents of Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, and Sahibabad were subjected to eight hours of power cuts, she added. She alleged that the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government's

electricity model was the "costliest with long outages" and said choosing Kejriwal as chief minister would prevent them from the same fate. "What we are seeing in Uttar Pradesh, we might have to see in Delhi if you do not choose Kejriwal. This is important as only he can give free electricity 24x7.

I will protect the people of Delhi during the next four months as the BJP might try to increase power tariffs in the national capital," she said at a press conference. Atishi also claimed the Uttar Pradesh government had increased electricity connection rates by 250 per cent.

"For getting a 1-kilowatt electricity connection, people (in Uttar Pradesh) will have to pay Rs 3,000 against the earlier Rs 1,200 while the cost of getting a 5-kilowatt connection has been hiked by 118 per cent," she claimed. Hitting

out at the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, she said there were long power cuts during the summer months in Noida, Ghaziabad, Sahibabad while there were no outages in Delhi.

Assembly polls in Delhi are due in Feb 2025. Atishi, who was chosen to succeed Kejriwal after his resignation, will get a maximum of just five months to run the government in Delhi, if the elections are held as per schedule. Free power to frugal customers who consume up to 200 units of electricity and 50 per cent rebate on the consumption of up to 400 units in a month, is going to be one of the biggest planks of AAP in the upcoming polls. Free electricity, water and transportation to women in state run buses are always the AAP main planks in the assembly polls in the country.

LG reviews preparedness regarding pollution situation for forthcoming winter season

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) V K Saxena on Friday reviewed the air pollution situation in the Capital and the preparedness regarding the same for the forthcoming winter season and underlined long and short-term issues and asked for them to be addressed, Raj Niwas said. Giving details, officials said those at the outset, taking up the long-term issues, the LG underlined that despite the heavy monsoon this year, providing unprecedented relief in terms of AQI, the hazardous impact caused by vehicular emission and dust remain largely unaddressed. Vehicular emission and road dust remain the largest contributor to air pollution in the

city in terms of increasing PM10 and PM2.5 levels.

While a study by IIT-Kanpur had shown that percentage of dust as a contributor to air pollution had gone down from 26 to 20% between 2018 and 2022, that of pollution from vehicular emission had gone up from 39% to 47% between 2018 and 2022.

It was pointed out that percentage of road dust as a contributor to air pollution had gone down because of the COVID Pandemic when people were mostly indoors. Saxena observed that the same would have increased multifold, especially in light of the condition of roads in the city and lack of coverage / carpeting of footpaths and flanks of the roads. The LG asked the authorities to undertake an evidence

based empirical study of the same and directed that concerted efforts be undertaken to repair the roads and ensure end to end ecologically suitable carpeting of all RoWs. He directed the PWD and MCD to look into this issue in a comprehensive manner and initiate remedial measures at the earliest.

Similarly, the situation in industrial areas of the city was pathetic, with roads in disrepair, uncovered patches of earth and municipal garbage being dumped there. This added to the pollution caused by dust and pollution caused by open garbage burning. DSIIDC was advised to come up with comprehensive scheme for repair of roads, coverage of footpaths and disposal of garbage in the industrial areas.



While appreciating the addition of non-polluting electric buses in the city's bus fleet, Saxena pointed towards the pollution due to vehicular emission caused by mostly empty DTC buses plying on roads without passengers.

The average occupancy of DTC buses stood at only 48%.

These buses occupied disproportionate road space and slowed down traffic, in the process augmenting vehicular emission. He asked the Transport Department to

rationalize bus routes and frequencies.

Taking up the short-term immediate measures, the LG directed that preparations be started at the earliest, without waiting for AQI levels to drop.

In this regard, he issued instructions like anti-smog guns that rotate on 180 degree fulcrum be placed on all high rises in the city above seven storey.

This, he said, had proven to be far more effective in terms of reducing ambient air pollution in comparison to their mobile version on roads. While on one hand, they did not cause inconvenience to pedestrians, two-wheeler riders and motorists, on the other hand they also mitigate the problem caused by slow moving mobile smog guns on

roads. He also directed that possibility of placing these smog guns on foot over bridges also be explored.

As far as construction activities were concerned, it was instructed that the authorities start the exercise of ensuring that construction material remains covered and construction activities that do not cause pollution be exempted from GRAP restrictions.

It was noticed that after completion of construction C&D Waste was left on the site itself causing dust pollution. The LG instructed that this practice be stopped forthwith by the enforcement agencies and completion certificates be issued only after the left over waste is fully removed.

It was also instructed that DPCC along with other enforcement agencies to start

the exercise of ensuring that open fires of any sort do not exist in the city.

A scheme of staggered office timings and working from home be formulated and implemented in advance. Also, mechanical road sweepers, should compulsorily be fitted with / followed by a water sprinkler so as to mitigate the dust that flies during the process of sweeping. All concerned departments / agencies were directed to submit weekly reports on the above to the LG Secretariat. Those present in the review meeting included Chairman, CAQM, Chief Secretary, Commissioner (MCD), ACS (I&FC), Principal Secretary (Environment), Special Commissioner (Traffic) and other senior officers of the departments concerned.

Kiren Rijju: Priyanka Gandhi does not understand parliamentary traditions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Kiren Rijju on Friday hit back at Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi disrespected her party chief Mallikarjun Kharge by not responding to his letter himself, saying she does not understand parliamentary traditions and standards.

Priyanka Gandhi, earlier in the day, charged Modi with disrespecting Kharge by not replying to the Congress president's letter himself and said it is unfortunate that leaders in the highest positions have rejected great traditions of democracy. BJP president J P Nadda had responded to the letter written by Kharge to Modi. In his letter to Modi, the Congress chief had asserted that strict legal action should be taken against certain ministers for making objectionable statements so that Indian politics could be prevented from degenerating.



In his response, Nadda had accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of having a history of abusing Modi and the Other Backward Classes (OBC), and of siding with anti-India forces. Hitting back at Priyanka Gandhi in a social media, Rijju, the parliamentary affairs and minority affairs minister, said: "Mallikarjun Khargeji is Congress party president, and we respect him. J P Naddaji is national president of BJP. Is Congress party's president above the BJP president? Mallikarjunji

is leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha but JP Nadda ji is the leader of the House in Rajya Sabha! Is leader of opposition above leader of the house?" Rijju said he was responding only because "some people" think they are "above everyone in the country and no one else matters in the Congress party." "A lesson for someone who does not understand Parliamentary traditions and standards ... We all are citizens of India and we all are equals and do not impose

dynastic culture on us. "Don't abuse someone who is much senior, has full lifetime experience in public life, and who is the prime minister of 140 crore Indians," he said. Priyanka Gandhi also said today's politics is full of poison and the prime minister should have set a different example, keeping the dignity of his post in mind. In a social media post in Hindi, Priyanka Gandhi said in view of the unrestrained and violent statements of some BJP leaders and ministers, Kharge wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, concerned about the safety of the life of Rahul Gandhi. "If the Prime Minister had faith in democratic values, balanced dialogue and respect for elders, he would have himself replied to this letter. Instead, he got a low-level and aggressive reply written by Nadda ji and sent it," she said. What was the need to disrespect an 82-year-old senior public leader, Priyanka Gandhi asked.

JP Nadda announces expansion of Ayushman Bharat PMJAY for citizens aged 70 and above

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Expanded Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) that would include all people aged 70 and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status and benefit an estimated six crore citizens in about 4.5 crore households will be rolled out from next month. This was informed by Union Health Minister JP Nadda at a press conference held here on the first 100 days of the third Modi government. Nadda also shared that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch an online vaccine management portal U-WIN, currently operational on a pilot basis. Nadda said that the portal has been developed to maintain a permanent digital record of vaccination and medicines of pregnant women as well as children from birth up to the age of 17. The portal will allow self-registration by citizens using the U-WIN web-portal or the U-WIN citizen mobile application, automated SMS alerts, universal QR-based eVaccination Certificate and utility to create their Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) ID for themselves and Child ABHA ID for their children. The portal is in 11 regional languages including Hindi, said Nadda. The Minister also said that soon BHISHM Cubes, a portable and rapidly deployable modular medical facility intended to provide emergency lifesaving clinical care in event of disaster/public



health emergencies will also be placed in medical institutions. "BHISHM cubes have the capacity to handle about 200 cases of diverse nature in emergency situations such as trauma, bleeding, burns, fractures, etc. In the 1st Phase, BHISHM Cubes will be placed in 25 AIIMS and Institutes of National Importance (INIs) for rapid deployment in the respective region in case of disaster / health emergencies. States may also deploy at strategic locations subsequently," he said. India has gifted four BHISHM Cubes to Ukraine during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country recently, Nadda added.

About the usage of drone services, he said that fifteen AIIMS/INIs/NE institutions have been identified for drone services. Drone trials and training have been completed in 12 institutes. Nadda said that drones provide safe, accurate, reliable pickup and delivery of medicines, vaccines, blood, diagnostic specimens and other life-saving items to difficult-to-reach facilities. The Union Minister also highlighted the introduction of the Food Import Rejection Alerts (FIRA), an online portal designed to notify the public and relevant food safety authorities about food import rejections at Indian borders and training of food street vendors by the FSSAI.



India extends \$50 million emergency aid to Maldives

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has extended emergency financial assistance to the Maldives by renewing its subscription to government treasury bills worth \$50 million for a year. It is the second time this year India has offered such aid to the Maldives. The move comes amid signs of a thaw between the two countries after their relations plunged to a low when President Mohamed Muizzu came to power in the Maldives last year on the back of an "India Out" campaign and demanded New Delhi withdraw more than 85 military personnel deployed in the country to operate three aircraft. The State Bank of India (SBI) subscribed the Maldivian government's treasury bills worth \$50 million for a period of one year from the date of maturity of the previous subscription, which was September 19, 2024, the Indian high commission in Male said in a statement. In May this year, the SBI subscribed to treasury bills worth \$50 million under the same mechanism, again at the request of the Maldivian government. These subscriptions were made at the special request of the Maldivian government as

"emergency financial assistance", the statement said. "India has assisted the Maldives in times of need and the current subscription of T-bills, along with the government of India's decision earlier this year of extending special quota for export of essential commodities for the Maldives by one more year reflect India's continued support to the Government and the people of the Maldives," the statement said. India described the Maldives as a key maritime neighbour and an important partner under the "Neighbourhood First" policy. Maldivian tourism minister Ahmed Adeb, in a social media post, expressed his gratitude to the Indian government for extending the "crucial budgetary support" with the rollover of the treasury bills worth \$50 million. "This strengthens the deep bond between our nations and reinforces our path towards economic stability and growth," Adeb said. The Maldives is currently grappling with a serious economic downturn, with its revenues and foreign currency reserves having been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the fallout of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Lokpal seeks applications from retired Government officials for consultant posts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal has sought applications from retired Government officials, including those who have served in the CBI and ED among other central probe agencies, to join it as consultants, officials said on Friday. They said these consultants may help in conducting preliminary inquiries into graft complaints received by the Lokpal. The Lokpal has recently advertised six posts of consultants at various levels, including one for appointment of an eligible candidate as a "Personal Assistant". The other five posts are that of a consultant-deputy director/superintendent of police



(Lokpal) and two each of consultant-inquiry/investigation officer and consultant-assistant inquiry/investigation officer, according to the vacancy circular issued by Lokpal. Giving details of the eligibility for the post of consultant-deputy director/SP (Lokpal), the circular said officers who have retired from the Central Armed

Police Forces can apply. Retired Officers of Group-A organised services who worked in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) among others are also eligible to apply. Those applying for the post should have at least five years' experience in conducting inquiries or investigations in general or economic and banking or cyber matters. The vacancy circular assumes significance as the Lokpal has recently constituted an inquiry wing for conducting a preliminary inquiry into graft-related offences committed by public servants.



NMCG collaborates to combat plastic waste in Ganga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

To combat plastic waste in the Ganga Basin, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is collaborating with various organizations including Netherlands Embassy, Ocean Cleanup, Bharat Clean Rivers Foundation, and academic entities like IIT Delhi and the National Institute of Urban Affairs, along with the CPCB and State Mission for Clean Ganga. These collaborations are crucial for developing effective strategies to reduce plastic pollution, enhance community awareness, and ensure the health of the river ecosystem, said an official from the NMCG about a meeting held recently in this context. The meeting focused on addressing the issue of plastic pollution in the Ganga Basin, he said. Plastic waste remains a critical factor in the degradation of water quality and poses a major threat to biodiversity in the region. The collaborative discussion underscored the shared commitment to finding robust solutions to this growing challenge, he said. During the meeting, Dr A K Vidyarthi from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) stressed the need for collective action to tackle the plastic menace, with a special emphasis on the partnership with The Ocean Cleanup to remove plastics from the rivers, according to the official. Namami Gange has also made significant strides in monitoring and managing water pollution through real-time pollution abatement systems, he said. PRAYAG, a data-driven monitoring initiative, plays a crucial role in swiftly addressing pollution levels in the Ganga and its tributaries. This technological approach is seen as a key element in the project's ongoing efforts to rejuvenate these vital waterways, he added. The Urban River Management Plan (URMP), another cornerstone of the initiative, has already shown success in reducing pollution in cities like Kanpur and Ayodhya, the official noted. "Plans are now in motion to expand these efforts to Prayagraj, in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and the Netherlands," he said. The senior official highlighted that plastic pollution poses a growing threat to India's freshwater ecosystems. Innovative technologies introduced by organisations like The Ocean Cleanup are expected to be instrumental in managing this challenge efficiently.

Defence Minister flags in first-of-its-kind Open Water Swimming Expedition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday here flagged-in, in New Delhi, a first-of-its-kind Open Water Swimming Expedition to the 21 Islands of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago named after the Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardees. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had named 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman and Nicobar after the PVC awardees on January 23, 2023 on Parakram Diwas commemorating the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. To commemorate the first anniversary of the renaming, the Tri-service Andaman and Nicobar Command launched 'Expedition Param Vir', wherein a team of personnel from the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and



Indian Coast Guard undertook swimming to all the 21 islands as a tribute to the valour and sacrifice of the 21 gallantry awardees and unfurled the National Flag at each island. The 11-member expedition team was led by the acclaimed open water swimmer and Tenzing Norway National Adventure Awardee Wing Commander Paramvir Singh. In his address, the defence minister commended the

courage and ability of the team, which successfully completed the expedition by overcoming numerous challenges at sea, and brought the stories of valour and sacrifice of the Param Virs to the people. He stated that the expedition was in line with the government's efforts towards ensuring that the gallant deeds of our soldiers, who sacrificed themselves in the service of the nation, are known to the

people, especially the youth, and that these bravehearts become their heroes. He expressed hope that the Armed Forces personnel will continue to bring glory to the nation and be a source of inspiration for the youth. During the event, the Expedition Flag was handed over to the defence minister by the team. The flag was witness to the entire expedition, its challenges, camaraderie and finally the successful completion. It represents the cause and stirs emotions of patriotism and pride. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Army Staff General Udaya Dwivedi, Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Air Marshal Sajju Balakrishnan and other senior officials were present during the flag-in ceremony.

India needs 100,000 more optometrists, technicians to combat eye care: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

To combat the rising challenge of uncorrected refractive error (URE) in India, there is a need to meet the shortage of eye care professionals with an additional 100,000 optometrists and technicians, particularly in underserved rural areas. The report is co-authored by IVI's CEO Vinod Daniel and Ramachandran P, Chair, IVI Advisory Committee. Daniel said URE remains the leading cause of vision impairment in India, impacting 59 per cent of adults and 7.5 per cent of children. With more than 200 million people lacking access to corrective eyewear, the resulting economic loss in India exceeds Rs 1 lakh crore annually. "The report stresses the urgent need for comprehensive measures to tackle Uncorrected Refractive Error in India focusing on raising public awareness, improving optometry education, and integrating technology to address the challenge."



on the retina, which results in a blurred vision. Myopia (shortsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness), and astigmatism fall under 'refractive error'. The IVI is working to augment the primary eye capacity of the country, called for addressing the shortage of eye care professionals with an additional 100,000

optometrists and technicians, particularly in underserved rural areas. The report is co-authored by IVI's CEO Vinod Daniel and Ramachandran P, Chair, IVI Advisory Committee. Daniel said URE remains the leading cause of vision impairment in India, impacting 59 per cent of adults and 7.5 per cent of children. With more than 200 million people lacking access to corrective eyewear, the resulting economic loss in India exceeds Rs 1 lakh crore annually. "The report stresses the urgent need for comprehensive measures to tackle Uncorrected Refractive Error in India focusing on raising public awareness, improving optometry education, and integrating technology to address the challenge."

Need 85,000 billion USD until 2070 for climate action projects in seven Indian cities: Report

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Vadodara in Gujarat, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu, Udaipur in Rajasthan and Siliguri in West Bengal will require USD 85,000 billion until 2070, for varied climate action projects in various sectors to combat global warming threats. This was the key highlight of a first of its kind document in South and Southeast Asia, seven Net-zero Climate Resilient City Action Plans 2070, for the seven cities released together here at the National Workshop on 'Multi-Level Action for Climate Resilient Cities' recently. The report also noted that due to these climate change combat measures approximately 8 lakh green jobs are expected to be created as per plans which

are in alignment with India's ambitious target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 as committed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at the CoP26 in Glasgow, 2021. The sectors included transport, buildings, biodiversity, water supply, SWM, wastewater, stormwater, renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors among others. In fact, Ahmedabad's early release of its Net-zero CRCAP 2070 last July set a precedent for other cities. Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Tokhan Sahu pointed out that the very high temperatures of 2024, experienced heavily in Gujarat recently, and the extreme cold are all manifestations of climate change. "The worst effects of climate change are more acutely felt by the elderly, children and the poor. It is crucial to



address the adverse effects of climate change..." The plans were also a major milestone for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) supported CapaCITIES project, said the officials here. Philippe Sas, Head International Cooperation and Counsellor, Swiss

Agency for Development and Cooperation agreed as he asserted, "Sustainable planning adopted by Switzerland focuses on engineering longevity, innovation & co-benefits. These best practices contribute significantly to India's national missions and subnational climate action planning."

Several innovative green projects are being implemented across these seven cities to combat climate change. For instance, Tirunelveli has established an urban flood early warning system to enhance disaster preparedness while Ahmedabad has set up solar-powered charging stations for electric buses, promoting clean transport. At the same time, Tiruchirappalli is focusing on catchment area and watershed management, which aids in groundwater recharge through effective urban planning and water body restoration. Udaipur has created a green mobility zone to encourage sustainable transportation options while Vadodra, Udaipur, and Siliguri are developing Miyawaki forests, which are dense, biodiverse urban forests that enhance green cover.

PM Modi targets Rahul Gandhi, slams Congress for anti-national speeches abroad

Criticises for furore over visit to CJI home, says Congress hates Ganapati puja

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Dubbing the Congress as the most "dishonest" and "corrupt" party in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday indirectly attacked the leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, by saying that "some Congress leaders go to foreign nations and push anti-national and divisive agenda" and also "insult the country's culture and faith".

Addressing a rally organised to celebrate the first anniversary of the Bnational PM Vishwakarma Program at Wardha in eastern Maharashtra, Modi revived

the controversy over his visit to Chief Justice of India's residence for a Ganapati Puja, by charging that the "Congress hates Ganapati Puja".

"The Congress is no longer the Congress with which Mahatma Gandhi was associated. Today, the soul of patriotism has died a death in the Congress. Today, the Congress is harbouring the ghost of hatred. Look at the language used by the people of Congress. The Congress people go to foreign lands and propagate anti-national and divisive views. They also insult the country's culture and faith," Modi said.

"Indirectly alluding to Rahul



Gandhi's purported visit to the US, the Prime Minister said: "Today, the

Congress is being run by a 'tukde tukde' gang and urban Naxals. Congress is the most corrupt and dishonest party. If there is a most corrupt family in the country, it is the Congress royal family".

"Alluding to the controversy over Ganapati Puja, Modi said: "If any political party that believes in our faith and our culture does not oppose Ganapati Puja. But, today's Congress hates Ganapati Puja.. It was on this land of Maharashtra, Bal Gangadhar Tilak had started the tradition of Ganeshotsav which came to be known as the celebration of unity in the country. People from all regions used

to associate with it" Referring to his visit to CJO's residence for Ganapati puja, the Prime Minister said: "I went to a Ganapati Puja. The Congress began to practise appeasement politics. Their people began to oppose Ganapati Puja... The Congress will go to any length to promote appeasement politics".

"In Karnataka, the ruling Congress detained Ganpati idol in a police van. This was happening at a time when Ganeshotsav was celebrated in a big way in Maharashtra. The country was shocked after the Ganpati idol was put in the police van," Modi said.

"Exhorting the people of Maharashtra to "teach" a lesson to the Congress party in the forthcoming State Assembly polls, Modi said: "We have to stand by the tradition and progress. We have to stand by honour and development agenda. Let us save the identity of Maharashtra and fulfil the dream of Maharashtra together".

"During his visit to Wardha, the Prime Minister launched the 'Aacharya Chanakya Skill Development' scheme and 'Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Women Startup Scheme'. He released certificates and loans to PM

Vishwakarma beneficiaries and also released a commemorative stamp dedicated to mark one year of progress under PM Vishwakarma.

Modi laid the foundation stone of PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park at Amravati, Maharashtra. The Prime Minister took a walkthrough of the exhibition showcased on the occasion.

Recalling the Vishwakarma Puja celebrations that took place two days ago, Modi said: "Today, we are celebrating the successful completion of one year of the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

Battleground shifts to Pir Panjal region for upcoming Assembly polls



MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After witnessing a close contest in the first round of polling in the Chenab Valley region, the battleground in the Jammu province has shifted to the Pir Panjal region comprising the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch. Voting is scheduled to take place on eight assembly segments during the second round of polling on September 25.

For the first time, nine seats out of 90 Assembly segments have been reserved for the Scheduled Tribes (STs) following the delimitation of constituencies in 2022.

Out of these 9, six seats fall in the Jammu region and three in Kashmir valley. Three seats are located in the frontier district of Rajouri, two in Poonch, and one seat is reserved in the Gulabgarh area of the Reasi district of the Jammu region.

The six ST seats at stake in the current polls are Rajouri, Budhal, Thannamandi,

Surankote, Mendhar, and Gulabgarh.

Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) led Union government had also granted the Scheduled Tribe status to the Pahari community hoping to reap rich political dividends.

The Bharatiya Janta Party, which won two seats from the Rajouri district in the 2014 Assembly elections is aiming to further improve its tally.

On the other hand, the alliance partners Congress and the National Conference are upbeat and hoping to repeat their performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

The alliance partners won the Anantnag Rajouri Lok Sabha seat with a thumping majority garnering the majority of votes of the Gujjar Bakerwal and Pahari communities.

In the absence of a BJP candidate in the fray, the PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti became the runner-up and

the BJP-supported APNI party candidate stood third in the race.

The party has fielded former J&K BJP Chief Ravinder Raina from the Nowshera Assembly segment. He is challenged by the National Conference candidate Surinder Choudhary. Raina had defeated the same candidate by a margin of over 10,000 votes. In 2014, Surinder contested the seat on the PDP ticket. In between he joined the BJP but soon parted ways. He is running against the same rival candidate and giving a tough fight on ground zero.

The BJP has already intensified its campaigning in the region. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to address a series of public meetings in support of party candidates during his two-day-long visit to the Jammu region. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari also addressed a campaign meeting in Budhal in support of the party candidate Choudhary Zulfikar Ali on Thursday.

In Rajouri, the BJP has fielded Vibodh Kumar Gupta, a Pahari Hindu. The Congress has fielded state party general secretary Ifkar Ahmed, a Pahari Muslim. The PDP has fielded Tasadiq Hussain, the only Gujjar candidate in the race. Rival candidates of the BJP are hoping for a vertical split in votes on religious lines to emerge victorious.

Didi express missive to Modi on Bengal floods

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ PASHKURA/KOLKATA



Even as the flood situation worsened in large parts of South Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday dashed off a strong letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi holding central Government institutions responsible for what she called a "man made flood" and threatening to snap her State's ties with the Damodar Valley Corporation.

Alleging "unplanned and unilateral release of water" water the Chief Minister wrote, "The state is now facing the biggest floods in Lower Damodar and adjoining areas after 2009. I earnestly request that you give this matter serious consideration and direct the concerned ministries to address these issues as top priority, including the sanction and release of substantial central funds to undertake extensive flood management works in the interest of people, who suffer the most."

Alleging that the DVC had released about 5 lakh cusecs of water in a short span of time affecting about 1000 square kms of area without informing her State Banerjee wrote in her four-page letter that, "If this unilateral approach continues, bringing hardship to the people of my state, we will be left with no option but to disengage entirely from DVC and withdraw our participation. We cannot allow this ongoing injustice to affect our people year after year."

The Chief Minister has also

asked for funds to tackle the "man made" floods in Bengal. "I flagged this issue during the NITI Aayog meeting. Unfortunately, no visible action has been taken on the ground," and the "situation has further worsened," Banerjee wrote.

She alleged that, the DVC had not been paying its primary attention on flood control and was concentrating more on power generation. "DVC appears to have shifted focus from its primary objective of flood control in the Damodar River, as mandated by law, to power generation, disregarding its social obligations. This shift has sacrificed the interests of the downstream of West Bengal," she said.

Banerjee had been touring the flood affected areas for the past couple of days. Large parts of Birbhum, Hooghly, Burdwan, Howrah, East Mdnapore and West Midnapore had been inundated by the sudden release of water, she alleged.

Regarding her threat to snap ties with the DVC Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said that Banerjee's

decision to snap ties with the DVC will affect Bengal the most as about 8 districts would go without power. "Mamata Banerjee is threatening DVC but if she snaps the ties 8 districts will go without power ... she has herself not been able to construct a single power plant ... and now threatening to snap relationship with DVC ... we dare her to do so," Adhikari said.

Meeting locals in Hooghly and West Midnapore districts Banerjee said that most of the water had been released from Panchet and Maithon dams in Jharkhand. "I have raised this issue with the Jharkhand Government too ... I have been told that this was done to save the areas in Jharkhand ... I have no problem in saving the interests of other States ... but this does not mean that Bengal's interest will be sacrificed ... why should Bengal suffer every year ... and year after year ... despite repeated requests they neither dredge the river beds or take any measure for desilting the rivers and we suffer as a result ... this must stop," Banerjee said.

CM seals Jharkhand border, may snap ties with DVC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KHARAGPUR/KOLKATA

In what could strain the equation between two partners of the Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance, the Bengal Government upon the instruction of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee sealed borders between Jharkhand and her own State saying that the measure was taken to protect the incoming vehicles from flood that had inundated large parts of southern Bengal including the national highways.

Thousands of trucks loaded with perishable products, vegetables and other items were stranded for the past more than 24 hours at various entry points in West Midnapore, Birbhum and other areas affecting business sources said.

"We have been inundated by the DVC ... now we don't want the vehicles that are coming from other States to get swept away ... so let the borders with Jharkhand be sealed for three days," Banerjee said.

Political circles however said that the Chief Minister was "trying to teach lessons to the DVC and its boss the Centre."

Opposition BJP said that her action would however boomerang on her. State Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said that

"the routes that have been stopped joins rest of India with the North East ... if this continues then essential supplies will get disrupted affecting business worth hundreds of crores ... and Mamata Banerjee will hold responsible for that ... if the borders are not opened by 2 pm we will write letters to Home Minister Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari and the Bengal Governor to take appropriate measures ... we cannot allow a Chief Minister to act like a Prime Minister as she is thinking herself to be."

Though there was no immediate from political authorities in Jharkhand sources said that the Soren Government in that State might not sit quiet for long if the business interests of that State get hampered.

"Pear which is extensively grown in Jharkhand worth crores are rotting in trucks ... apple from Himachal Pradesh bound for Kolkata and potato ... besides other perishable products are rotting because of some political issues ... we don't want to get our business hampered ... the truckers are agitating as they will not get the fare even if the products get spoilt ... the Government must do something immediately or we will hit the streets," said businessmen in Kolkata.

Kaviyoor Ponnamma, popular Malayalam film actress, passes away at 79

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kaviyoor Ponnamma, popular Malayalam film actress, who was known more as the "Mother of All Actors", is no more. She breathed her last at a private hospital in Kochi at 5.30 pm following age-related issues. She was 79.

Ponnamma has acted as mother of all leading artists in Malayalam film industry since he made her debut in 1962. Sathyam, Madhu, Prem Nazir, Mammooty and Mohan Lal always preferred to have Ponnamma as their mother all the films they acted. Late

Thilakan and Ponnamma were the "made for each other couple" in films. Despite the Malayalam movies being taken over by the new generation film makers, Ponnamma remained as the eternal mother. Her husband Maniswami had predeceased her in 1969, she leaves behind a daughter who is based in USA.

Lead director Sathyam Anthikkadu, who had cast Ponnamma in most of his films, said that all one has to do is to tell the actress what was her role. "She would perfect the character with elan. Nothing surprising in all Keralites wanted her to be their mother",



Sathyam told The Pioneer. Suresh Kumar, producer of some of the magnum opus Malayalam movies described Ponnamma as Nirupa Roy of Hindi films. "The ease with which she assimilated the characters given to her was really surprising and I consider her as a university of acting," said Suresh Kumar. There was a chemistry between Mohan Lal and Ponnamma which only movie maker like Sathyam Anthikkadu could understand and exploit.

In her career spanning more than six decades, Ponnamma ha won State film awards four times and a host of other honors.

Doctors end cease work partially, rush aids to flood-hit areas

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even in withdrawal of their "41-day cease work" the agitating junior doctors — demanding justice for their raped and murdered colleague of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital — on Friday took out a 42-km "relay Mashaal (torch) procession," and threatened to renew their agitation if the State Government would not fulfill their demands as promised in bilateral dialogues with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

After a general body meeting the doctors said that "considering the hardship of the people and the imminent flood situation in southern parts of Bengal we are partially withdrawing our cease work and resume our Emergency, and other duties from tomorrow that is Saturday ... but at the same time we want to "remind the Government that we are not withdrawing out of fear but out of gratitude to the people and sense of service ... and if the promises that were made to us are not implemented soon then we will once again go back to our agitation."

On whether they would join the OPD services they said they would not for the time being until the security measures were fully implemented by the Government.

However they said that "we had not discontinued any service completely as we were holding camps outside the

hospital premises and serving the patients all these days."

The announcement came after the state had accepted most of their demands - including the Kolkata Commissioner of Police Vineet Goyal and another Deputy Commissioner along with two Directors of Health Department.

The withdrawal also came amid massive floods in south Bengal where health services had become a priority. Earlier the Government reportedly issued instructions regarding ensuring adequate availability of on-duty rooms, washrooms, CCTVs, deployment of police and security personnel which would include women, mobile police teams for surveillance at night, central helpline and panic buttons and alarms.

"We are overwhelmed by the popular support that we received ... partially ending the strike and are rushing aids and services to the flood hit areas of West Midnapore, Hooghly and Birbhum where they will be required the most ... our teams of doctors will also serve the flood affected people in these areas personally by opening Abhaya Camps," Dr Debashis Halder one of the agitating doctors said.

Meanwhile massive processions comprising medical staff and general citizens set off from various parts of Kolkata particularly from High Land Park in south-east Kolkata for Shyam Bazaar crossing in the North shouting "Justice for Abhaya."



NIA conducts searches in Punjab terror case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted searches at four locations in Punjab on Friday as part of its probe in a terror-conspiracy case involving designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and the Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), a banned organisation associated with him.

NIA teams swooped down at one location in Moga, two locations in Bathinda and one location in Mohali, at premises connected with suspects in the case, an official statement said.

The searches led to the seizure of various incriminating materials, including digital devices, which are under examination, it added.

The case relates to a conspiracy allegedly hatched by Pannun with other members of the SFJ, the statement issued by the NIA said.

Piyush Goyal slams Congress for deceit, backs BJP in Gurugram rally

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, said that Congress is an expert in befooling people by making big promises. The minister was present in Gurgaon in support of BJP local candidate Mukesh Sharma.

He said that Sharma is a youth leader and he will work like a social worker for the people of the city.

During a public meeting with traders of the Gurgaon Sadar Bazar market he appealed to vote for Mukesh Sharma for the development and progress of Gurgaon constituency.

The Haryana assembly elections will be held on October 5 and results will be declared on October 8. Goyal assured that the saffron party will form government in Haryana for the third time; on this occasion, he also attacked



Congress. He also described BJP's Sankalp Patra as fulfilling the aspirations of every Haryanvi. The Union Minister said that the Congress party confuses people with lies and fraud. People made Congress win in Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and today they are suffering because of Congress.

"Congress' guarantee is a bundle of lies which is never going to be fulfilled. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi makes promises; he fulfils them with a guarantee. 80 crore people of the country are getting free ration. Through Ayushman and Chirayu cards, poor people are getting treatment up to Rs 5 lakh. PM Modi has also guaranteed treatment up to Rs 5 lakh for the elderly above 70 years of age," he said.

Goyal said that the BJP has benefited every section in its Sankalp Patra. There is a guarantee of giving Rs 2100 per month to women. Gas cylinder for Rs 500, promise of giving jobs to 50 thousand youth of Haryana by building new cities.

He surounded the Congress and said that Congress gathered votes by luring Rs 8500 in the Lok Sabha elections. Voters were misled by saying that the Constitution and reservation were a threat to the BJP.

SC takes suo motu cognisance of comments of Karnataka HC Judge on woman lawyer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday took suo motu cognisance of the controversial comments made by a Karnataka High Court judge against a woman lawyer during court proceedings. A five-judge bench comprising senior judges, including Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, assembled in the morning to take cognisance of the comments made by Justice Vedavyasachar Srishananda of the high court during judicial proceedings.

The bench sought a report from the High Court on the comments of the judge. "Attention has been drawn to media reports to the comments made by Justice...Of Karnataka High Court during the court

proceedings. We request the Karnataka High Court to submit report after seeking instructions from the Chief Justice of the high court," the CJ said. "We may lay down some basic guidelines," the bench, which also comprised Justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, Surya Kant and Hrishikesh Roy, said.

The CJ said this exercise of filing a report maybe carried out in next two days and the report be filed with the secretary general of the apex court. The plea is now fixed for hearing on Wednesday.

In a viral video of the court proceedings, the judge was seen reprimanding a woman lawyer on Thursday and reportedly made some objectionable comments. Senior advocate Indira Jaising took to 'X' to urge the CJ to take suo motu judicial note of the comments.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

A formidable task

The feasibility of implementing simultaneous elections in a diverse democracy like India remains uncertain

The Union Cabinet has cleared the ambitious proposal of "One Nation, One Election," aiming to synchronise elections for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, urban bodies, and panchayats. This monumental shift is grounded in the recommendation of a panel led by former President Ram Nath Kovind, which reported "unanimous" support for the proposal. As the Modi government inches closer to presenting this initiative to Parliament, the question arises: Is this plan feasible, and where do we stand today? At its core, "One Nation, One Election" envisions holding elections for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, and local bodies concurrently. This system was standard practice from India's first general election in 1951/52 until 1967. However, the cycle was disrupted in the late 1960s due to the premature dissolution of some state governments and the Lok Sabha, breaking the simultaneous electoral rhythm. Implementing "one nation, one election" is easier said than done, given the present constitutional provisions that allow for dissolution of state governments midway or even the central government if it loses majority in the house.



Reverting to simultaneous elections would require significant constitutional changes and logistical planning. The Kovind panel's report, submitted in March, outlines the support for simultaneous elections, noting approval from 32 political parties and prominent figures from the judiciary. For "One Nation, One Election" to become reality, the Modi government must navigate significant legislative hurdles. Parliament would need to pass two critical bills — one addressing Lok Sabha and state assembly elections and the other governing municipal and panchayat polls. Constitutional

amendments dealing with the duration and dissolution of legislatures and President's Rule are essential. In the present composition of parliament, it may be rather difficult. While the BJP holds a simple majority, it falls short of the two-thirds majority required for constitutional amendments by 52 votes in the Rajya Sabha and 72 in the Lok Sabha. Support from opposition parties will be crucial, but given the opposition's resistance it would be tough. In addition to parliamentary approval, the second bill requires ratification by at least half of the states. Currently, the BJP and its allies control 19 states, meaning that even with opposition protests, this step is achievable. According to proponents, synchronised elections will reduce voter fatigue and increase turnout. The government claims that cutting down the number of elections would reduce the deployment of security forces, lower the costs of EVMs, and enable political parties to save on campaign expenditures. But concerns about political power grabs and constitutional violations loom large. Curtailing or extending the terms of state governments undermines democratic norms and could trigger legal challenges. The biggest impediment is India's size and diversity. Whether this ambitious plan becomes a reality will depend on the government's ability to navigate the legal and political minefields that lie ahead.

PICTALK



Dark clouds hover over Statue Circle, in Jaipur

PTI

Harmony day: Building a world without walls

True peace begins within, and only by dismantling the barriers in our hearts can we hope to restore harmony in the world

Today, social media, newspapers, news channels and websites are all filled with depressing and sad news about conflicts, violence, war, bloodshed and destruction all over the world. There seems to be no end to the long-drawn Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine wars which have heaped untold misery with unprecedented loss of human lives.

Elsewhere in the world, extremist and terrorist activities are taking a heavy toll on not just human life but also on our economic progress. When the Berlin Wall was demolished in 1989 for the unification of East and West Germany, we had envisioned a world without walls, a world of peaceful co-existence. However, over the years, the clock turned back as instead of erecting bridges of love, we raised the walls of division, with growing hatred and hostility shattering the world peace.

Today, the world is facing the biggest ever threat of division of humanity on the lines of caste, colour



religion, culture, ethnicity and nationality. In this prevailing scenario, we are faced with the moot question - Why has the world become so hostile, strife-torn, insecure and devoid of peace? World peace is nothing but the reflection of inner peace among humans. If we find the world embroiled in conflicts and peace eluding us, it is only because we humans lack peace within us. Vedas say that we need to have peace within ourselves before we can hope to establish peace in the world. We will not be able to bring down the walls of division in the outside world unless we first dismantle the walls of hatred and hostility in our minds. Human greed and unending desires are creating tensions, conflicts and subsequent unrest as we don't think twice about

riding roughshod over fellow humans for our selfish gains. History is a witness that wars and bloodshed took place because of human lust for dominion, power and self. Today, instead of loving and respecting fellow humans, we are discriminating and running them down to establish our supremacy. Even Swami Vivekanand questions it, "When we can love ourselves with all our shortcomings, why do we fail to accept others with their drawbacks?"

Love is a sure recipe for peace. What we need today is a world of love and not hatred, a world of light and not darkness, a world of association, not isolation, a world of harmony, not hostility and a world of peace not war. It is spirituality that fosters love, peaceful co-existence and unity of mankind. When we realize our original divine nature and connect to the Self, we are freed from all kinds of delusions, false notions and religious fundamentalism and as an enlightened person, we are in a state of harmony with the Creator. We

then tend to embrace the qualities of love, kindness, compassion, tolerance, humility and patience and the vices that shatter love and peace, get dispelled. With that, we can develop a broad outlook with an inclusive attitude and become open to the thoughts, beliefs and faiths of others. And the feeling of 'otherness' gives way to a sense of oneness, promoting goodwill for mankind. Thus, by understanding the essence of spirituality and by adopting it in day-to-day life, we will be able to shun the feeling of jealousy and hatred - the root cause of disharmony, unrest and strife. Instead, we will develop the feeling of fellowship, with artificial walls of caste, creed, religion, and nationality, giving way to the bond of belongingness. Then, in the true sense, we will be able to build a world based on the equality of humans with the spirit of social cohesiveness and peaceful coexistence.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)



VINOD BEHL

Two recent episodes of sexual violence against women at the workplace, one, the brutal rape and murder of a resident doctor inside a Kolkata government hospital, and the other about the systematic sexual abuse of women in the Malayalam film industry, as revealed in the Justice Hema committee report, have once again confirmed that women are still unsafe, prone to violence, and suffer from an existential crisis. Amid a huge political uproar, a few years ago a global survey dubbed India 'as the most dangerous place for women', which, perhaps, had hurt the nation's collective ego that fostered a sentiment that 'India is a land where women are worshipped'. Following the prolonged public outrage in the state and across the country, the West Bengal government adopted an anti-rape bill, titled 'Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) Bill 2024', seeking capital punishment for rape convicts. Earlier, in 2013, the gruesome Nirbhaya episode, brought in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, with the introduction of a new clause (376 A) for the offences of rape that caused death or persistent vegetative state of the victim and the death penalty to the perpetrator.

While the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018, which came in after the horrific incidents of Kathua and Unnao, specifically provided for capital punishment for offenders convicted of raping minors. States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh also enacted amendments for enhanced punishment for sexual assaults. So far this has been an established political playbook, as the public demand for justice is high pitched. Studies also indicated that 'whenever society faces a problem with a burgeoning number of crimes, the public response is almost invariably to increase the criminal penalties'. A 2021 research study noted

that a significant number of people believe that the death penalty has the potential to discourage others from committing crimes. However, a recent study (Michael Radelet & Traci Lacock, University of Colorado) revealed that '88% of the leading criminologists do not subscribe to the view that the death penalty is an effective crime deterrent'. In India, Justice J.S. Verma Committee was not 'inclined to recommend the death penalty for rape even for the rarest of rare cases' and observed that it would be a 'regressive step in the field of sentencing and reformation'. Earlier, the Justice Malimath Committee also rejected the idea of the death penalty for rape cases and called for procedural amendments which result in certainty of punishment rather than a quantum of punishment as a real deterrent. The Constitutional Bench of the SC (Mithu v. State of Punjab, 1983), proclaimed that Section 303, IPC, is violative of Constitutional rights, and deprives judges of their discretion in sentencing. In 2015, the Law Commission recommended that the 'legal system should move towards a restorative system of justice, based on human rights and criminal psychology'.

While, a feminist criminologist (Bibha Tripathi, Professor, Faculty of Law, BHU) remarked that a series of 'reactionary' amendments in India, might have temporarily responded to the 'collective conscience' of people, but, failed to prevent crimes against women, and for that, the law and society should evolve hand-in-hand'. A prominent lawyer activist, also opined that 'public anger has done little to improve the lives of Indian women, the outside world still belongs firmly to men, and the government has failed to enforce its laws, with only about a quarter of cases that go to trial result in a conviction'. Despite having several statutory laws and subsequent amendments to make them more stringent, the latest NCRB data, showed a rise of 20 per cent in the reported cases of rape, an average of nearly 90 rapes a day, while, the conviction rates for rape ranged between 27-28 per cent (2018-2022). A 2020 study on rape adjudication in the aftermath of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, of 2013, found that in Delhi trial courts, the rate of conviction (2013-2018), dwindled to 5.72% from 16.11% under the old law. 'Some judges are reluctant to convict since the tougher

sentences came in, and if there is some doubt on evidence, which doesn't stand up to judicial scrutiny, then they are compelled to acquit, ...if there was some discretion, they could have lowered the sentence, and ensured that he's convicted', a senior criminal lawyer commented. As incidents of rape and sexual assault pour in day in and day out, reaffirming the reality that 'mere legal reforms, unaccompanied by governance and societal change, do not yield far-reaching results'. It is now high time to go beyond 'the belief that increasing penalties increases deterrence'. In a society that nurtures patriarchal social norms the deeply ingrained gender biases and prejudices can only be removed through a change in the mindset. The education and grooming of boys and girls need a thorough overhaul to inculcate and respect the values of human rights and the rights of each other. The intervention and action should be at state, community, family and individual levels for mitigating risk factors.

(The author is former Director General, Doordarshan & All India Radio, views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE LABYRINTH OF GST

Madam — Last week, when FM Nirmala Sitharaman met the MSME representatives in Coimbatore (TN) a restaurateur posed a problem he is facing due to variable rates in GST in a comical manner. He narrated that while a plain bun and cream sold attracts 5% each, GST, the bun with cream applied attracts 18% and hence his patrons buy the bun and the cream separately. He also mentioned that sweets, snacks and coffee sold attract different rates and even the computer in his restaurant fumbles at times. FM promised to take up the matter with the GST council. The next day FM explained this in greater detail in a press meet that the GST rates are decided in the GST council and all the states FMs are members of the council and the centre and the FM has no role in the matter.

FM also explained that the states apart from 50 per cent of the GST collected also are given a share equivalent to 41 per cent of the remaining 50 per cent of the collection as decided by the Finance commission, an independent constitutional body, where again the FM or the centre has no role. In the meantime the restaurateur met the FM and apologised, seemingly, with no provocation. This video clip has unfortunately gone viral and the state BJP president who is on a sabbatical in UK called him and apologized for the leakage of the video clipping. The leaked video clipping has drawn criticism from all quarters viz. LoP Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Kharge, TN Chief Minister M K Stalin and protest from local DMK cadre. While the GST council as 'chief' decides on the rate structure on GST and FC decides on sharing the collection, FM only presents it in the Lok Sabha and her office implements it as a 'bearer' bears the brunt of the people. It is high time the finance ministry sensitizes the people on GST in detail.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

Price hike hurts poor people



The recent policy decisions of the NDA government, which has come to power for the third time after the general elections in the country, are hindering the lives of the common people. Recently, the central government increased the import duty on foreign goods, and the increased prices on essential goods came into force. Due to this effect, the prices of cooking oil

increased from Rs 15 to Rs 25 per kg. The prices of palm oil and sunflower oil, which are widely used, have gone up. Besides, the use of oil increases in the background of festivals like Dussehra and Diwali.

All the people have to bear this burden. In addition to these, the prices of pulses, onions and vegetables, which are the daily necessities of the people, are also skyrocketing. This can be considered as an example of the fact that the Center, which has been careful not to go into any kind of reforms without increasing the prices of essential goods until the end of the general elections in the country, is determined to implement them one by one when it comes to power. In addition to this, some groups are hoarding essential commodities informally and creating artificial scarcity and selling the commodities at high prices, doubling the hardships of the common man.

Appanna Gonapa | Visakhapatnam

NETANYAHU PUTTING ISRAEL IN DANGER

Madam — After a disagreement between the Israeli government and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, it appears that former member of the Israeli War Council, Benny Gantz, does not agree with the current Israeli government. Once again, he criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, stating: "Whatever Netanyahu is doing is against the betterment of the country. No Prime Minister in the history of Israel has committed such mischief." Netanyahu's actions could lead to the destruction of the country. Moreover, it is against the international laws and gross violation of human rights. Protests can be seen across the country, even in the capital city of Tel Aviv. The brutality against humanity and human rights, the behavior and nature of a blood-thirsty wolf in human form, must be stopped. All secular countries that claim to uphold justice must come forward to stop the war for the sake of saving humanity.

Md Taukir Rahmani | Mumbai

JUSTICE BULLDOZED

Madam — The recent Supreme Court directive halting bulldozer demolitions reaffirms the core constitutional values of fairness and justice. Unchecked demolitions, especially targeting individuals accused of crimes, pose a serious threat to due process. No one's property should be razed merely because of allegations. This ensures protection from arbitrary actions by authorities while preserving the rule of law. However, the exemption for unauthorised structures on public roads and footpaths maintains a necessary balance. The Supreme Court's proactive stance signals that punitive actions must always align with legal standards. Such developments highlight the judiciary's commitment to safeguarding rights and preventing misuse of power under the guise of law enforcement.

Priya Gupta | Kushinagar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

BOREDOM IN THE AGE OF DISTRACTIONS

Boredom, once fleeting, has now become a hallmark of our hyper-connected lives



SHAINY SHARMA

In a world where options are seemingly endless, from Netflix shows; and YouTube videos to social media platforms, one would expect that boredom would be a thing of the past. However, the situation is that the opposite is often true. With so many choices, people are frequently overwhelmed by the sheer volume of information, leading to a paradox of choice. This cognitive overload has started causing decision fatigue, making it difficult for an individual to enjoy or engage fully with any one activity. Instead of being satisfied, many people end up feeling detached, disengaged and ultimately 'bored'. The rise of social media and short-form content mainly on Instagram and YouTube has led to a consumption pattern that prioritizes brief and often superficial engagements. Scrolling through an Instagram feed, watching TikTok or browsing YouTube videos provides the users with momentary distraction but often lacks depth. The omnipresence of smartphones and the internet means that people are almost always "on."

The expectation to be constantly available for work emails, social media updates or even texts has eradicated much of the natural downtime that was once a part of everyday life. Ironically, while these technologies offer endless stimulation, they have also heightened the experience of boredom. The constant pressure to stay connected prevents people from truly resting or engaging deeply with meaningful activities, leaving them in a perpetual state of mental restlessness.

Many jobs involve repetitive tasks, long hours of screen time or tasks that lack a sense of personal fulfillment. Even jobs with a high workload



can leave individuals feeling mentally unstimulated or disengaged. In a world that seems more connected and stimulating than ever, it may seem paradoxical to say that boredom is increasingly becoming the new normal. The expectation that we should be constantly entertained or productive has reshaped the way we engage with the world, leading to a persistent feeling of boredom despite the abundance of choices and distractions. In today's fast-paced, hyper-connected world, one might assume that boredom would be a rare occurrence.

With endless digital entertainment, social media platforms and work demands at our fingertips, the idea of being bored seems almost anachronistic. Yet, paradoxically many people report feeling bored more frequently than ever. The experience of boredom has shifted from an occasional, fleeting state to a regular part of life. In many ways, feeling bored has become the new normal. This lack of true downtime fragments our attention and prevents us from engaging deeply with any activity. Despite its negative reputation, boredom can be a powerful catalyst for creativity and self-discovery. Many of the world's greatest thinkers and innovators have credited their breakthroughs to periods of boredom. When the mind is not distracted by constant input, it has the space to wander, reflect, and come up with new ideas. Boredom provides the mental downtime necessary for deeper thought and creativity to flourish. By reframing boredom as a chance to pause and explore deeper mental states, individuals can find fulfillment beyond the superficial distractions of the modern world, ultimately creating a more meaningful and balanced life. It is no longer simply a temporary state but has grown into a regular part of modern life, exacerbated by an overload of choices, the attention economy, and the pressure to always be productive. Boredom can be an opportunity to cultivate mindfulness and self-awareness and avoiding the feelings may turn to escapism, often in the form of mindless social media scrolling, binge-watching shows or engaging in other passive forms of entertainment. While these activities provide short-term relief, they rarely address the root cause of boredom and can lead to a cycle of avoidance. Instead of being mentally enriching, these distractions can deepen the sense of dissatisfaction.

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

India-Bangladesh relations hit new low

Despite India's efforts for cordial ties, rising anti-India sentiments within Bangladesh's hardliner-dominated interim government pose a major challenge



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR



The harsh fact is that however much India may concede, it will not have cordial relations with Bangladesh's interim government. This may surprise many who believe that Muhammad Yunus, the chief advisor, whose position is analogous to a prime minister's, is neither an India hater nor a dyed-in-the-wool fundamentalist Islamist. He is a survivor with whom one can do business.

Even if one goes with this assessment, and believes that he wants good relations with this country, the trouble will be with those who call the shots in the interim government—the student leaders, the coordinators of the Anti-Discriminatory Students' Movement (ADSM) that caused Sheikh Hasina's exit. They reportedly elevated Yunus to his present position and, heading the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP's) demand, also got Lt-Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (Retd) to replace Brig-Gen Shakhawat Hussain (Retd) as advisor, Home Affairs, supposedly because the latter had made "pro-Awami" league remarks. Brig-Gen Hussain has been given the ministry of Textiles and Jute.

Most of the coordinators are intensely—and, to go by their conduct, incurably—hostile to India. The manner in which they and multitudes of students sprang to blame India for the floods in the eastern districts of Bangladesh in August, 2024, clearly indicated their pathological hatred towards this country. Attributing the deluge to India opening the sluice gates of the Dumbur dam on the Gumti river flowing into Bangladesh, without warning to the latter's authorities, and thus providing them no time to prepare to deal with the consequences, they took out processions and held rallies condemning India and mouthing threats to it.

According to a report in *The Daily Star* (August 22, 2024) headlined "Students protest blaming India for flash floods," students of several public universities staged demonstrations, rallies and torchlight processions, blaming India for the flash floods and chanting slogans like "Bharatiya agrashon rukhe dao jonogon" ("People, halt India's aggression"). The report further quoted a coordinator, Golam Kibria Chowdhury Mishu, as saying, "For the past 53 years India has been torturing

Bangladesh in different ways." Similar slogans were shouted, and vituperations against India mouthed, in other processions and rallies in most of the important universities across Bangladesh. A report in the daily sun (August 22, 2024) carried under the heading "Protest at DU [Dhaka University] blames India for the flash floods," quotes Hasib Al Islam, a coordinator of the ASDM, as saying, among other things, "Delhi, forget your dominance and aggression. The time of the Fascist Hasina is over."

According to a report in *The Daily Star* (datelined August 22, 2024) carried under the heading "India has shown 'inhumanity' by opening the dam, says Nahid," Md Nahid Islam, a coordinator and an advisor holding multiple portfolios including Information and Broadcasting, said while briefing journalists in Dhaka at the end of an advisory council meeting, "We can see upstream water coming in and creating a flood situation. India has shown inhumanity and non-cooperation by opening the dam without prior warning."

He added, "We will urge, and hope that India will refrain from this kind of policy against the people of Bangladesh soon. We must find a solution on how we can protect the people of India and Bangladesh from this kind of natural disaster together." That the second sentence within the above quotation reflected a fraudulent effort to show a desire to do business with India, is clear from what else he said, "Students and people of Bangladesh are angry with this policy of India" and that the people of Bangladesh are struggling for their share of the water for a long time—implying that India had been denying it to them.

India showed subsequently that the floods were triggered by unprecedented torrential rainfall in the contiguous areas of India and

eastern Bangladesh and not any of its actions. No thunderous anti-Indian pronouncement on the deluge has since been heard from Bangladesh's student "revolutionaries" in shining armour. What they said and did, however, indicated two things. The first is a deep-rooted hatred for India which bursts forth in instantaneous accusations on the basis of suppositions and not verified information. Nahid Islam's outburst mentioned above is an example of this, which is particularly reprehensible because, his being an advisor, his pronouncements bear the stamp of the government's authority.

Second, the rallies and protests showed that there is either an organisational infrastructure for expressing anti-India sentiments through action, or an ability and intention to use the mobilizational mechanism deployed in the ASDM to condemn India. In other words, it showed a mindset that waits for any opportunity to condemn India, and which will be very difficult to eradicate. In any case, a serious effort to eradicate this mindset is unlikely to be forthcoming given the composition of the council of advisors, which is dominated by people hating this country.

Consider the case of advisor for home affairs, Lt-Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (Retd). His intense hatred for India was in evidence a number of times when, as a major-general, he was director-general of Bangladesh Rifles (now Border Guards Bangladesh). During a visit to India for talks with the then director-general of the Border Security Force (BSF), Ajay Raj Sharma, he had, on September 28, 2004, mockingly dismissed the detailed information India had provided about the location of training camps of north-east India's secessionist rebel groups in Bangladesh, saying, "There is not a single camp in

Bangladesh. We looked for the camps' locations given in the BSF list. Some of the addresses were of our cantonment area and our headquarters.... Some addresses even pertained to the Bay of Bengal." During the same visit, he had said in respect of illegal Bangladeshi entrants into India, "Why should people come from Bangladesh to India? Your economic situation is not better than Bangladesh's. There are 50,000 Indian in Bangladesh who have entered the country illegally." He had added that if India's economy was better than Bangladesh's, "You would not have gone for work in (the) Middle East and the Arab countries."

Advisor, Religious Affairs, AFM Khalid Hossain, is a Naveb-e-Ameer of Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh (Hefazat) and an advisor to Islami Andolan Bangladesh, both bitterly hostile to India. Thirteen persons were killed and scores injured in clashes between Hefazat's supporters on the one hand, and the security forces and Awami League activists on the other, during the violent protests it staged against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence on March 26, 2024. Chief advisor Yunus had a cordial meeting with leaders of the Hefazat on August 31, 2024.

Given all this, India needs to deliver a simple message to the interim government: we want good relations with you, but do not mess with us and do things like resuming the sanctuary and support some of the earlier governments of your country gave to north-east India's secessionist rebels. And please remember that we can cause you far greater trouble than you can cause us.

(The author is Consulting Editor, *The Pioneer*. The views expressed are personal)



INDIA NEEDS TO DELIVER A SIMPLE MESSAGE TO THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT: WE WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH YOU, BUT DO NOT MESS WITH US

The expanding horizons of physiotherapy: Integrating technology with holistic care

The integration of new technologies is revolutionising physical therapy. Wearable sensors are enhancing the precision and effectiveness of physiotherapy

The critical role of physiotherapy in promoting workforce health, addressing sedentary lifestyle issues, correcting postural imbalances, and enhancing productivity is increasingly being recognised not only by the common man but also by the corporate sector. Needless to say, physiotherapy is a holistic approach that aids individuals in recovering, maintaining, and enhancing their mobility and overall well-being. This evolving field which is continually shaped by technological advancements and shifts in healthcare practices, enhances its effectiveness in patient care in different arenas.

Expanding Roles in Mental Health: Physical therapists are increasingly involved in men



KHYATEE

tal health care, particularly in managing depression and anxiety. By leveraging the mind-body connection, physical therapists can offer low-intensity psychological interventions to address symptoms related to mental health conditions. Electroceuticals like Deep Brain Stimulation can help reduce insomnia, anxiety, and depression. We can also

help in the well-being of children with autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Deficit. This shift towards integrating physical therapy with mental health care reflects a broader trend toward holistic patient management.

Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI is transforming physical therapy by enabling more personalized and efficient patient care. Advanced algorithms analyse extensive patient data to create tailored rehabilitation programs and forecast pain patterns.

Adoption of the PRISM Pain Model: The Pain Recovery and Integrative Systems Model (PRISM), developed through collaboration between the APTA and the National Institutes of Health, is set to revolutionize pain management in physical therapy. PRISM addresses the complex nature of pain beyond traditional models, facilitating more effective decision-making and treatment approaches.

Boon in Geriatric conditions: Elders are susceptible to various illnesses usually including musculoskeletal, neurological, and cardiopulmonary problems, mental illness, balance problems, and chronic pain. Physiotherapy treatment has been successful in managing each of these ailments.

Emphasis on Primary Care



Physical Therapy: The trend towards preventive and patient-centred care is spotlighting primary care physical therapy. By focusing on non-pharmacological interventions and early intervention, physical therapists are providing alternatives to manage pain and chronic conditions. This approach not only reduces healthcare costs but also enhances patient outcomes through collaborative, holistic

care. For instance, take the case of stroke rehabilitation. Physical therapy helps stroke survivors regain motor functions and improve muscle strength, coordination, and balance through targeted exercises and treatments. Similarly, the therapy promotes neuroplasticity, the brain's ability to reorganize and form new neural connections. Therapists use techniques to encourage the brain to adapt and compensate for damaged areas. In functional training, therapy includes functional training to help patients perform everyday tasks, which can significantly enhance their quality of life and self-sufficiency.

Growing Popularity of Aquatic Therapy: Aquatic therapy, or hydrotherapy, continues to gain recognition for

its benefits, including reduced joint stress and increased flexibility. This low-impact therapeutic option is particularly effective for patients with musculoskeletal issues and is becoming a more common feature in rehabilitation facilities. **Innovations in Technology:** The integration of new technologies is revolutionizing physical therapy. Motion capture technology and wearable sensors are enhancing the precision of care plans. Virtual reality and interactive video games are improving patient engagement and adherence to therapy. Additionally, rehabilitation robotics, such as exoskeletons and intelligent prosthetics, are offering tailored support that adapts to patients' progress. Telehealth is also on the rise,

providing patients with flexible, convenient access to therapy.

Increasing Need for Referrals: As physical therapists take on more comprehensive roles, collaboration with physicians becomes increasingly important. Physicians are recognizing the benefits of physical therapy interventions, leading to a higher demand for referrals. These trends highlight the ongoing evolution in physical therapy, emphasizing a shift towards more personalized, technology-driven, and integrated approaches.

(The author is a senior physiotherapist and former senior research officer with AIIMS Director. She is also a Co-Founder of Pratyaksh Medical Care; views are personal)

ON ECONOMY, NEITHER TRUMP NOR HARRIS HAS EDGE: POLL

Kirtan gets recognition

AP ■ WASHINGTON
Going into November's election, neither Kamala Harris nor Donald Trump has a decisive edge with the public on the economy, turning an issue that was once a clear strength for Trump into the equivalent of a political jump ball. About 4 in 10 registered voters say Republican Trump would do a better job handling the economy, while a similar number say that about the Democratic vice president, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. About 1 in 10 voters don't trust either candidate, and a similar share has equal faith in them. The finding is a warning sign for Trump, who has tried to link Harris to President Joe Biden's economic track record. The

new poll suggests that Harris may be escaping some of the president's baggage on the issue, undercutting what was previously one of Trump's major advantages. The economy has long been a weak issue for Biden: A separate AP-NORC poll conducted in late June, before Biden's disastrous debate with Trump, found that about 6 in 10 Americans disapproved of his handling of the economy. Earlier this year, Americans were much more likely to say that Trump's presidency helped the country on cost of living and job creation, compared to Biden's. The new poll found that the economy is one of the most important issues for about 8 in 10 voters as they consider which candidate to support, dwarfing other top issues like health care and crime. The aftermath of inflation's

spike in 2022 to a four-decade high has pervaded this year's presidential contest. Shoppers are upset over their grocery bills. Higher interest rates are financially squeezing the buyers of homes and motor vehicles. All that has appeared to matter more to the public than the low 4.2% unemployment rate and stock market gains. According to the AP-NORC poll, only about one-third of voters say the state of the national economy is somewhat or very good, although they're more optimistic about their own situation, with about 6 in 10 voters saying their household's finances are somewhat or very good. Both of those numbers have remained steady over the course of the year, despite falling inflation. The candidates have clashing ideas about how best to straighten out the economy, giving

voters a stark choice that might hint at how partisan identity increasingly informs views of the economy and policy. But neither campaign has fully explained how its plans would be implemented. Harris insists her plans would be fully funded and not add to the deficit, while Trump's team assumes — in defiance of most economic models — that growth will be high enough to offset the cost. Mark Carrough, 33, who works on medical records in Philadelphia, plans to vote for Harris and says he believes that the taxes on imports proposed by Trump would hurt most consumers. "The tariffs would be horrible for the economy," he said. Richard Tunnell, 32, of Huntsville, Texas, plans to vote for Trump, just as he did in 2020. He's not sure if the Republican has an advantage

over Harris on the economy, but he noted that Trump has been a great businessman who remains one of the "richest men on the planet" even after filing for bankruptcy multiple times. "I believe this country needs someone to reach their hand in it and work it like a game of Monopoly and that person is Donald Trump," said Tunnell, a military veteran on disability. Chantelle Breaux, 38, a stay-at-home parent from Lafayette, Louisiana, feels neither candidate has much to offer on the economy. She doesn't plan to vote — unless a candidate more to her liking enters the race. "Kamala wants to put a Band-Aid where major surgery needs to be done on this economy," said Breaux. "Trump wants to run the country as if it's a business, but it isn't a business that

is going to support all of the people." Former President Trump suggests growth would come from tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy leading to more investment, while a universal tariff of as much as 20% would direct that investment to building U.S. factories. Harris has campaigned on more benefits for the middle class to be funded by higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy, saying that would help to contain costs and deliver growth. Her team has warned that Trump's tariffs would lead to higher prices and worsen underlying inflation challenges. The economy is one of many issues shaping public sentiment as the campaigns seek to turn out their voters. More than half of voters said health care was a top concern, while roughly half said that about crime, immigration,

abortion policy and gun policy. Only about one-third called climate change one of the most important issues for their vote, and about one-quarter said that about the war between Israel and Hamas. Trump and Harris are evenly matched in the poll on who would better handle crime and the war in Gaza. But the issues soon splinter in ways that reflect the distinct priorities of Republicans and Democrats. Trump has an advantage over Harris on whom voters trust to better handle immigration. This issue was a problem for Biden, as well: Illegal immigration and crossings at the U.S. border with Mexico have been a challenge during much of his administration. Republicans are more likely to care about immigration, the issue where Trump has a clear upper hand.

PTI ■ LONDON
For the first time in the UK, Kirtan is recognised as part of the graded music examination system, with students able to access a formal curriculum and texts for "Sikh Sacred Music" starting Friday. Birmingham-based musician and academic Harjinder Lallie has devoted years towards Kirtan taking its rightful place alongside Western classical music and ensuring the traditional musical skills are preserved for generations to come. Kirtan, the singing of shabads or scriptures from the holy 'Guru Granth Sahib', is a fundamental method of devotion and praise in the Sikh faith. London-based Music Teachers' Board (MTB) will now offer Sikh Sacred Music as part of its globally recognised eight-grade music exams.

In-person voting for US Pres poll begins

AP ■ MINNEAPOLIS
The Democratic and Republican parties conventions are just a memory, the first and perhaps only debate between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump is in the bag, and election offices are beginning to send out absentee ballots. Now come the voters. Friday is the start of early in-person voting for the 2024 US presidential election, kicking off in Virginia, South Dakota and Minnesota, the home state of Harris' running mate, Gov. Tim Walz. The first ballots being cast in person

come with just over six weeks left before Election Day on Nov. 5. About a dozen more states will follow with early in-person voting by mid-October. "If I could wave a magic wand in this room right now, I would wish for two things: Between now and November 5th, I want to see high turnout and low drama," Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon said during a news conference Thursday that previewed his state's efforts around the election season. Simon also serves as president of the National Association of Secretaries of State. Across the country, local election

directors are beefing up their security to keep their workers and polling places safe while also ensuring that ballots and voting procedures won't be tampered with. Officials and ordinary poll workers have been targets of harassment and even death threats since the 2020 presidential election. Federal authorities are investigating the origin of suspicious packages that have been sent to or received by elections officials in more than 15 states in recent days, including Virginia. As the start of early voting approached, Trump's rhetoric turned more ominous with a

pledge to prosecute anyone who "cheats" in the election in the same way he falsely claimed they did in 2020, when he lied about widespread fraud and attacked officials who stood by their accurate vote tallies. Trump has previously sought to sow doubts about mail voting and encouraged voters to cast ballots in person on Election Day. But this year, Trump and the Republican National Committee, which he now controls, have begun to embrace early and mail voting as a way to lock in GOP votes before Election Day, just as Democrats have done for years.

Dhruvi Patel from US declared Miss India Worldwide 2024

Washington (PTI): Dhruvi Patel, a computer Information System student from the USA, has been declared the winner of Miss India Worldwide 2024, the longest running Indian pageant outside of India. Dhruvi aspires to be a Bollywood actor and UNICEF Ambassador. "Winning Miss India Worldwide is such an incredible honour. It's more than a crown - it represents my heritage, my values, and the opportunity to inspire others on a global scale," Dhruvi said after her crowning in Edison, New

Jersey. Lisa Abdoelhak from Suriname was declared the first runner-up, while Malvika Sharma from the Netherlands was adjudged the second runner-up in the same race. In the Mrs category, SuAnn Mouttet from Trinidad and Tobago was the winner, with Sneha Nambiar the first and Pawandip Kaur from the United Kingdom the second runner up. In the Teen category, Sierra Suret from Guadeloupe was crowned Miss Teen India Worldwide.



'Israel warned US of operation in Lebanon but gave no details'

AP ■ WASHINGTON
Israel warned US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in a call Tuesday that a military operation was going to take place in Lebanon but gave no details, US officials said Thursday. The same day of the call, in an attack widely blamed on Israel, thousands of pagers belonging to Hezbollah militants exploded. The call was one of four between Austin and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant this week as attacks have spiked between Israel and Hezbollah, fuelling worries that they could escalate into a wider regional war. The two spoke again later Tuesday, and the US has acknowledged being briefed following the attack. There was another call Wednesday, and they also spoke Sunday, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private talks. The officials said the US did not get advance warning of the second wave of attacks, with walkie-talkie radios targeted Wednesday. At least 37 people were killed, including two children, and some 3,000 wounded in the two days of explosions.

The officials stressed that the US played no role in the attacks and said they were surprised by the specifics of the operations. The attacks on electronic devices this week appeared to be the culmination of a monthslong operation by Israel to target as many Hezbollah members as possible all at once — but civilians were also hit. Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh on Thursday acknowledged the four calls but did not provide timelines of when they happened. She said the US has not made any changes in its force posture in the region as a result of the recent surge in attacks. During a call Wednesday with Gallant, Austin spoke about regional security developments and reiterated America's unwavering support for Israel in the face of threats from Iran, Hezbollah and other Iranian proxies in the region, Singh said. Austin "emphasised the US commitment to deterring regional adversaries, deescalating tensions across the region, and reaffirmed the priority of reaching a cease-fire deal that would bring home hostages held by Hamas," she said. He also pushed for a diplomatic solution that would allow civilians on both sides of Israel's northern border with Lebanon to return to their homes, Singh said. Asked about the potential for a US military evacuation of American citizens in Lebanon, Singh said the Pentagon has not gotten a request from the State Department to do that. State did urge US citizens in Lebanon to maintain a low profile and review their security awareness in alerts this week. State Department and White House officials say there are long-standing contingency plans for the potential evacuation of Americans in Lebanon but they have no information to suggest that those will become operational anytime soon.

Tender Cell Department
Tender Notice - TENDER

TENDER ACCEPTED DATE: 21/09/2024 TO 15/10/2024 AFTERNOON 2.30 PM
TENDER SALE DATE: 21/09/2024 TO 15/10/2024 AFTERNOON 2.30 PM
TECHNICAL BID OPENING PROCESS DATE: 16/10/2024 AFTERNOON 3.30 PM

SR. NO.	TENDER NO.	DEPARTMENT NAME	WORK DESCRIPTION	TENDER SET PRICE	TENDER AMOUNT	EMD RS.	WORK PERIOD	TENDER RELATED RESPONSIBLE PERSON
1	PMC/VEHICLE /2024/174	MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT	MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT PROCUREMENT OF FOG CANNON MOUNTED VEHICLE MACHINE AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FOR PERIOD OF 1 YEAR FOR PUNE CITY FROM 15TH FC FUNDS	17,879/-	6,04,17,064.50/-	604170.65	1 year 3 months	Monica Walujkar 7447472703

1. Govt approved /PM.C. approved experienced Tenderer needed for this work. (Pre qualification conditions are given in tender set)
2. All information of tender is available on above mentioned website
3. Terms & conditions & other details for completing the above work are mentioned in Tender set and tender set is available on www.mahatenders.gov.in Tender sale and acceptance are to be done
4. As per order by circular No. Admre (spl)/ 32, dated 22/04/2016 EMD Is accepted E.C.S./R.T.G.S./NEFT

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT
PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

सार्वजनिक सूचना

आप सभी को सूचित किया जाता है, कि पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मन्त्रालय द्वारा मेसर्स गोल्फ होराइजन एल.एल.पी., प्लॉट नं० B-10, जेपी ग्रीन्स, ग्रेटर नोएडा, गौतम बुद्ध नगर, उत्तर प्रदेश को ई० सी० आई० डि० नॉटिफिकेशन नं० EC24C3801UP557522N, दिनांक: 13.09.2024 के द्वारा प्रस्तावित कॉन्डोमिनियम अपार्टमेंट परियोजना "लिगेसी बाय गौरस" के निर्माण को पर्यावरण स्वीकृत प्रदान की है।

पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मन्त्रालय द्वारा जारी पर्यावरण स्वीकृत की प्रति विभाग की वेबसाइट <http://moef.nic.in> (<http://environmentclearance.noc.in>) एवं उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियन्त्रण बोर्ड के पास उपलब्ध है।

मेसर्स गोल्फ होराइजन एल.एल.पी.
प्लॉट नं० B-10, जेपी ग्रीन्स,
ग्रेटर नोएडा, गौतम बुद्ध नगर, उत्तर प्रदेश

सार्वजनिक सूचना

आप सभी को सूचित किया जाता है, कि पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मन्त्रालय द्वारा मेसर्स गौरसन्स हाईटेक इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, प्लॉट न. GH-6, सेक्टर-3, किंगवुड एंक्लेव, NH-24, वेव सिटी, गाज़ियाबाद, उत्तर प्रदेश को ई० सी० आई० डि० नॉटिफिकेशन नं० EC24B3812UP5627732N, दिनांक: 03.07.2024 के द्वारा प्रस्तावित ग्रुप हाउसिंग परियोजना "गौर एन.वाई.सी. रेज़िडेंसेस" के निर्माण को पर्यावरण स्वीकृत प्रदान की है।

पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मन्त्रालय द्वारा जारी पर्यावरण स्वीकृत की प्रति विभाग की वेबसाइट <http://moef.nic.in> (<http://environmentclearance.noc.in>) एवं उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियन्त्रण बोर्ड के पास उपलब्ध है।

मेसर्स गौरसन्स हाईटेक इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्राइवेट लिमिटेड
प्लॉट न. GH-6, सेक्टर-3, किंगवुड एंक्लेव,
NH-24, वेव सिटी, गाज़ियाबाद, उत्तर प्रदेश

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that, M/s Golf Horizon LLP, Plot No. B-10, Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar (U.P.) has been granted EC with identification no. **EC24C3801UP557522N** dated 13/09/2024, by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Environment clearance has been given to Construction of proposed Condominium Apartments Project "Legacy by Gaur" at Plot No. B-10, Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar (U.P.)

A copy of the environmental clearance issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is available on the website of the department <http://moef.nic.in> (<http://environmentclearance.noc.in>) and with the UP-Pollution Control Board.

M/s Golf Horizon LLP.
Plot No. B-10, Jaypee Greens,
Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar (U.P.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that, M/s Gaursons Hi-Tech Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. GH-6, Sector-3, Kingwood Enclave NH - 24, Wave City, Ghaziabad (U.P.) has been granted EC with identification no. **EC24B3812UP5627732N** dated 03/07/2024, by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Environment clearance has been given to proposed Group Housing Project "Gaur NYC Residences" at Plot No. GH-6, Sector-3, Kingwood Enclave NH - 24, Wave City, Ghaziabad (U.P.).

A copy of the environmental clearance issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is available on the website of the department <http://moef.nic.in> (<http://environmentclearance.noc.in>) and with the UP-Pollution Control Board.

M/s Gaursons Hi-Tech Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.
Plot No. GH-6, Sector-3, Kingwood Enclave
NH - 24, Wave City, Ghaziabad, U.P.

सार्वजनिक सूचना

आप सभी को सूचित किया जाता है, कि पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मन्त्रालय द्वारा मेसर्स गौरसन्स रियलटेक प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, सेक्टर-19, यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे वाई.ई.आई.डी.ए., गौतम बुद्ध नगर, ग्रेटर नोएडा, उत्तर प्रदेश को ई० सी० आई० डि० नॉटिफिकेशन नं० EC24B3812UP5143432N, दिनांक: 13.09.2024 के द्वारा प्रस्तावित टाउनशिप परियोजना "गौर यमुना सिटी" के निर्माण को पर्यावरण स्वीकृत प्रदान की है।

पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मन्त्रालय द्वारा जारी पर्यावरण स्वीकृत की प्रति विभाग की वेबसाइट <http://moef.nic.in> (<http://environmentclearance.noc.in>) एवं उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियन्त्रण बोर्ड के पास उपलब्ध है।

मेसर्स गौरसन्स रियलटेक प्राइवेट लिमिटेड
सेक्टर-19, यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे वाई.ई.आई.डी.ए.,
गौतम बुद्ध नगर, ग्रेटर नोएडा, उत्तर प्रदेश

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that, M/s Gaursons Realtech Pvt. Ltd., Sector-19, Yamuna Expressway, YEIDA, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Greater Noida, U.P. has been granted EC with identification no. **EC24B3812UP5143432N** dated 13/09/2024, by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Environment clearance has been given to proposed Township project "Gaur Yamuna City" at Sector-19, Yamuna Expressway, YEIDA, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Greater Noida, U.P.

A copy of the environmental clearance issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is available on the website of the department <http://moef.nic.in> (<http://environmentclearance.noc.in>) and with the UP-Pollution Control Board.

M/s Gaursons Realtech Pvt. Ltd.
Sector-19, Yamuna Expressway, YEIDA,
Gautam Buddha Nagar, Greater Noida, U.P.

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

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अंतर्गत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि (1.) मेसर्स लाईम स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. श्री सोरभ कुमकार), खसरा क्रमांक- 865/1 (पार्ट), 865/2 (पार्ट), 868, 869 (पार्ट), 873 (पार्ट), 888/3, 888/4, 888/5, 888/6, 889, 890, 891/1, 891/2, 891/4, 891/5, 891/6, 891/7, 892/2 (पार्ट) एवं 892/3, लीज एरिया- 4.23 हेक्टेयर, खदान उत्खनन क्षमता - 2,00,025 टन प्रतिवर्ष, ग्राम- दौर, तहसील- पाटन, जिला-दुर्ग (2.) मेसर्स लाईम स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. श्री हरिशंकर कुमकार), खसरा क्रमांक- 149, 260, 257/1, 257/2, 254, 256, 279/2, 279/3, 262/1, 262/2, 265/3, 263/1, 263/2, 279/1, 279/4, 270/2, 270/3, 269/3, 271/3, 271/1, 271/2, 276, 275, 432, 433/2, 433/1, 438, 439, 443/1, 443/2, 445, 441/1, 441/2, 446, 269/2, 270/1, 265/1, 264/1, 282 एवं 265/2, लीज एरिया-12.38 हेक्टेयर, खदान उत्खनन क्षमता- 5,00,010 टन प्रतिवर्ष, ग्राम- चुनकड़ा, तहसील- पाटन, जिला-दुर्ग के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृत हेतु संयुक्त लोक सुनवाई बावत मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त परियोजनाओं के संबंध में आपत्ति / सुझाव / विचार / टीका टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजनाओं के लिए संयुक्त लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 25/10/2024 को समय दोपहर: 01:00 बजे, स्थान- आदिवासी सामुदायिक भवन, ग्राम पंचायत चुनकड़ा, तहसील- पाटन, जिला-दुर्ग (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:-

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

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

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

Ukraine bans Telegram app because of Russian threat

Ukraine has banned government officials, military personnel and other defence and critical infrastructure workers from installing the popular Telegram messaging app on state-issued devices, describing the move as necessary for national security during the war with Russia. Ukraine's National Cybersecurity Coordination Centre said it issued the ban for the official devices of government employees, military personnel, security and defence workers, and critical infrastructure employees. The ban was announced Friday by Ukraine's Security and Defence Council in a statement on Facebook. During a meeting on Thursday, the Security Service of Ukraine and the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said Telegram is actively used by Russia for cyberattacks, phishing, spreading malware, establishing user locations and calibrating missile strikes. An exception to the ban will be allowed for people who use the



app in their official duties. Ukrainians are free to use the app in their personal devices. The app is widely used in Ukraine not only for texting but also for reading news, including updates on Russian air attacks. It is also the primary way Ukrainian officials, including President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, engage with the public and relay war developments. Zelenskyy is likely to continue using Telegram in his public communications since it is in

his official capacity. Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, said Russian intelligence services are able to access the personal messages of app users, including deleted messages, as well as their personal data, according to the statement. "I have always advocated and continue to advocate for freedom of speech, but the issue of Telegram is not a matter of freedom of speech; it is a matter of national security," Budanov said, according to the statement.

EU chief in Kyiv pledges new energy funds

European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen is travelling to war-ravaged Ukraine on Friday with the promise of 160 million euros (\$180 million) in fresh energy funds to get the nation through the winter. Von der Leyen told reporters that 100 million euros (\$112 million) of the funds would come from the proceeds of the Russian assets held in the EU because of the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. "It is only right that Russia pays for the destruction it caused." The European Union estimates that about half of Ukraine's energy infrastructure has been destroyed, making the job of heating homes, hospitals and schools increasingly difficult as temperatures dip ahead of the

third war winter that the nation will face. Von der Leyen said Russia knew full well that bombing energy stations was hitting Ukraine where it really hurts. Morale to keep on fighting can be significantly sapped if millions shiver in the brutal winter for months on end. "We may see huge implications," said Fatih Birol, the head of the International Energy Agency. "People will look to move around, to go to the places where they can have shelter and heating." That makes international help all the more necessary, said von der Leyen. "As Ukraine's friends and partners, we must do all we can to keep the lights on. And as winter is approaching, well, we must keep the brave people of Ukraine warm, while we also are keeping the economy run-



President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, left, is greeted as she arrives at the railway station in Kyiv, Ukraine, Friday. AP/PTI

Ukraine for rebuilding there. With continued electricity exports from EU countries, von der Leyen said it would cover about a quarter of the nation's energy need in the coming months. The EU is trying to decentralise energy production through the use of solar panels and other new technologies in Ukraine to make it more difficult for Russian attacks to have a direct impact on the energy grid. It would also help Ukraine become a greener economy, she said. Overall, the EU estimates that it has provided Ukraine with at least 2 billion euros (\$2.24 billion) in energy support since the February 2022 invasion. Von der Leyen said she will meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv to discuss energy issues on Friday.

Sri Lanka gears up for crucial presidential polls

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka is gearing up for a crucial presidential election on Saturday, marking the island nation's first major poll since its worst economic meltdown in 2022. Incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe, 75, is seeking re-election for a five-year term as an independent candidate, riding on the success of his efforts to pull the country out of the economic crisis, which many experts hailed as one of the quickest recoveries in the world. Though Wickremesinghe's recovery plan tied to rigid reforms linked to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bail-out was hardly popular, it has helped Sri Lanka recover from successive quarters of negative growth. "I will make sure that I end the country's bankruptcy by going ahead with the reforms we introduced," Wickremesinghe told an election rally on Wednesday night. The three-cornered electoral battle will see Wickremesinghe facing stiff competition from Anura Kumara Dissanayake, 56, of the National People's Power (NPP), and Sajith Premadasa,

57, of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) and the main Opposition leader. Analysts opine that the three-way contest is the first such in the history of Sri Lankan presidential elections since 1982. "This election is different from all other previous presidential polls as all the three main contenders had faced setbacks in the 2020 parliamentary election," analyst Kusal Perera said. Dissanayake, who is said to be the front runner according to unofficial opinion polls, polled only three per cent of the vote in the 2020 parliamentary election, while Wickremesinghe polled only 2 per cent and Premadasa with the larger chunk of over 25 per cent. As Sri Lanka sank into economic collapse in 2022, a popular uprising led its then-president, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to flee the country. In another major departure from previous presidential polls, the minority Tamil issue is not on the agenda of any of the three main contenders in this election. Instead, the nation's battered economy and its recovery have taken centre stage with all three front runners vowing to stick with the IMF bail-out reforms.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that **Bidyut Prava Nayak** Wife of **Shri Sudhanshu Sekhar Nayak** residing at H-76E, Street No-1, H-Block, Ayanagar, New Delhi-110047 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as **Bidyut Prava Swain** in my minor son's namely **Omesh Nayak** aged 14 years in his birth certificate. The actual name of mine is **Bidyut Prava Nayak**.

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of M/s. MAXHEIGHTS TOWNSHIP & PROJECTS PVT. LTD. having its registered office at 408, 4th floor, RG Trade Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura New Delhi - 110034, the general public is hereby informed that on the basis of application/documents submitted by Smt. Asha Gupta W/o Late Sh. Suresh Chand Gupta R/O B-344, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110085, the Developer M/s. Maxheights Township & Projects Pvt. Ltd. is substituting, in place of Late Sh. Suresh Chand Gupta, the name of following Section I Legal heirs of Late Sh. Suresh Chand Gupta qua allotment of flat No. C-036, 3rd Floor, Maxheights Metro View Apartments, Sector-35, Sonapat, Haryana:-
1. Asha Gupta (Wife),
2. Alok Gupta (Son),
3. Atul Gupta (Son),
4. Megha Aggarwal (Daughter)
If any person has any objection/claim on the said property or against the said substitution, they may file their claim/objection within 15 days with the company at its registered address mentioned herein above, and thereafter no objection/claim will be entertained in this regard.
Kshitij Sharda
Advocate
Date: 21.09.2024

PROVISION OF BOGIE MODIFICATION

Tender Notice No: DLS/MLDT/NFR/01/2024-2025; Dated: 18-09-2024. Name of the work with its location: For & on behalf of the President of India, Sealed Tenders are invited from bonafide contractor for awarding Contract of "Provision of Bogie Modification for anti-falling of Traction Motors in 30 Locomotives, WAG-9 HC at Diesel Locomotives Shed, Malda Town. The work shall be completed within six months from receipt of LOA. The detailed description of work is given in tender document. Estimated Value: ₹25,52,970/-; Earnest Money: ₹5,100/-; Last date & time for submission of tender on 18-10-2024 and Opening of tender on 18-10-2024. Website particulars, where complete details of the tender can be seen, N.F. Railway's website www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Md Sah Alam S/o Hajiruddin, R/o Kh. No. 136/2, Block-A, Badli Village, Libas Pur, Delhi-110042, state that both the names Md Sah Alam and Md Shah Alam are of the same person and I shall thereafter be known as Md Shah Alam for all purposes.

PD(77)A
It is for general information that I, Uday Veer Singh S/o Sh. Jagmer Singh R/o D-29, Gali No.-7, West Jyoti Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110094 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Uday Ver Singh in my Delhi Police service records. The actual name of mine is Uday Veer Singh which may be amended accordingly.
PD(77)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Nayan Goenka son of Pawan Kumar Goenka, Passport No. U0241928 got married to Mrs. Jigisha Sharma daughter of Mr. Bijay Sharma, Passport No. 11434484 at Hyatt Place, Kathmandu, Nepal through Hindu Rituals with the consent of family and friends. Now they are going to register their marriage in the Indian Embassy, Kathmandu, Nepal. If anyone has objection can contact to Indian Embassy, Kathmandu within 30 days of this notice.
NAYAN GOENKA: 09977-9813876100
Sandeep Sharma, Advocate
Chamber 505, Patala House Courts, N. Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rajendra Ram S/o Sh. Saliram R/o Salempur Baghai, Ghaziipur, Salempur Baghai, Uttar Pradesh-275204 hereby declare that I am saving account holder of Bank of Baroda, Branch- Azadpur, Delhi and my account no. is 7684010002529. That in this said account, my name has been written as Rajinder Parshad instead of Rajendra Ram, that my exact and correct name is Rajendra Ram, which is also mentioned in my Aadhaar Card (No.9503 3101 7688) & Pan Card (No. DLDP5767J) that Rajendra Ram and Rajinder Parshad are one and the same person myself I declare that my name should be corrected as Rajendra Ram in future for all purposes and document records in place of name Rajinder Parshad.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all concerned that My client namely Balbir Singh Punia S/o Kanwar Singh Punia residence of M-29 Residential Greater Kailash-1 New Delhi 110048 is the owner of 100 percent of the property bearing No. M-29 Residential Greater Kailash-1 New Delhi-110048. Anyone having any sort of Right/Title/Claim of any nature in respect of above said property may put forward their claim to undersigned with supportive documentary evidence within 3 days from the publication of the notice, failing which it shall be deemed that there is no claim over the said floor i.e. M-29 Residential Greater Kailash-1 New Delhi 110048.
Sd/-
Sajal Dhamija (Advocate),
S-265, L.G.F., Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi-110018.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that Mansi D/o Dinesh Kumar who is/are purchasing the Terrace of Third Floor (i.e. Fourth Floor with Roof rights) Left Side Portion measuring 33.44 sq. mtrs. i.e. 40 sq. yds. Prop. No. RZ-337, Gali No. 13, Kh. No. 501, situated at Tughlakabad Extn. New Delhi-110019 from Parveen W/o Firoj Patel who was the owner by virtue of Sale Deed registered on dated 18.10.2011 (Doc. No. 17038) in the Office of SR-V-Delhi executed by Gopal Krishan S/o Sudershan Kumar. Intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited. Previous Chain link documents from Origination (Initial documents) upto Regd. GPA (Doc. No. 2949, A/S & Will dated 06.07.2009 are not available with the seller i.e. Parveen W/o Firoj Patel. To comply the requirements of BMR/NFR/C, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property i.e. hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days at below address:
NCR LAW ASSOCIATES Advocates, A-98, Sector-9, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, (U.P.)-201009, Mobile Nos. 999826427/9999721152

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)

E-TENDER NO.2024RSI8743TC

Director, Railways Stores(W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 2,70,288 Nos. Low Torque Grease Seal for AAR Standard Upgraded Class 'E'(6"x11") bearings used in freight stock to RDSO's Specification No. WD-63-MISC-2020 of October 2020 with latest amendments, if any.
2.0 The interested tenders are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.
3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.
4.0 Tender will be closed at 15.00 hours on 24.10.2024.
5.0 Any corrigendum to this tender will be published on the website <http://ireps.gov.in> only and not in print media.
Director, Railway Stores (W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi. For and on behalf of the President of India. 23/09/2024

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK

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

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 30.12.2023 calling upon the borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors **M/S MITTAL TRADING CORPORATION** Pataudi Road, Kadipur Industrial Area, Gurgaon - 122001 Prop. Purshattam Das S/o Sh. Murali Lal (Give full address) (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 2,22,34,111.00 (Rs. Two Crore Twenty Two Lacs Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred Eleven Only) plus interest, commission and other charges as on 30.12.2023 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 19 day of September of the year 2024.
(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 2,22,34,111.00 (Rs. Two Crore Twenty Two Lacs Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred Eleven Only) as on 30.12.2023 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 2,41,21,780.35 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.
(3) The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section(8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Industrial plot of 300 Sq Yards size 60 Ft* 45 Ft (Sale Deed No. 3912 dated 18.12.1989). Out of Killa no 32/1, situated in the Revenue Estate of Village- Kadipur, Kadipur Industrial Area, Gali No. 3, Main Pataudi Road, (Near Guru Kripa Medicos/ Raj Oil Mill and Opp Kidzee School), Gurgaon in the name of Mr. Tej Ram Aggarwal s/o Mr. Sant Ram Aggarwal
Dated: 19.09.2024
Place: Gurgaon
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

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

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 30.12.2023 calling upon the borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors **M/S MITTAL TRADING CORPORATION** Pataudi Road, Kadipur Industrial Area, Gurgaon - 122001 Prop. Purshattam Das S/o Sh. Murali Lal (Give full address) (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 2,22,34,111.00 (Rs. Two Crore Twenty Two Lacs Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred Eleven Only) plus interest, commission and other charges as on 30.12.2023 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 19 day of September of the year 2024.
(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 2,22,34,111.00 (Rs. Two Crore Twenty Two Lacs Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred Eleven Only) as on 30.12.2023 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 2,41,21,780.35 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.
(3) The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section(8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Industrial plot of 300 Sq Yards size 60 Ft* 45 Ft (Sale Deed No. 3912 dated 18.12.1989). Out of Killa no 32/1, situated in the Revenue Estate of Village- Kadipur, Kadipur Industrial Area, Gali No. 3, Main Pataudi Road, (Near Guru Kripa Medicos/ Raj Oil Mill and Opp Kidzee School), Gurgaon in the name of Mr. Tej Ram Aggarwal s/o Mr. Sant Ram Aggarwal
Dated: 19.09.2024
Place: Gurgaon
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, निर्माण इकाई, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम, रानीखेत

पत्रांक : 1475/निविदा/128 अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना दिनांक : 19.09.2024

अध्यक्ष उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य की मुहरबन्द निविदा निम्नांकित चार्ट में उल्लिखित श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दि० 05.10.2024 की सायं 3.00 बजे तक निर्माण इकाई रानीखेत में आमन्त्रित की जाती है, जो दि० 05.10.2024 को, इस कार्यालय में निविदा समिति द्वारा उपस्थित ठेकेदारों या उनके द्वारा अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष अपरान्त 04.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र दि० 19.09.2024 से दि० 04.10.2024 तक, किसी भी कार्यदिवस एवं कार्यालय समय (प्रातः 10.00 बजे से सायं 5.00 बजे तक) में उपरोक्तलिखित कार्यालय से परियोजना प्रबन्धक निर्माण इकाई, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, रानीखेत के पदनाम से बैंक ड्राफ्ट या परियोजना प्रबन्धक के पदनाम के खाता सं० 0938000100201949 पंजाब नेशनल बैंक रानीखेत में जमाकर, प्राप्त रसीद प्रस्तुत करने के पश्चात् विक्रय हेतु उपलब्ध हैं। निविदा के साथ वांछित धरोहर धनराशि केवल बैंक की एफ०डी०आर० की परियोजना प्रबन्धक, निर्माण इकाई, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, रानीखेत के पदनाम से स्टाफ पेपर पर रू० 1.00 का रसीदी टिकट लगाकर वैधता की शर्तों के साथ ठेकेदार द्वारा हस्ताक्षर कर संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। अन्यथा निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर धनराशि (रु० में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य + वस्तु एवं सेवा कर 18%	निविदा की वैधता	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	राजकीय नर्सिंग कॉलेज अल्मोड़ा में अकादमिक एवं प्रशासनिक भवन में मरम्मत के कार्य तथा शौकपेट का निर्माण कार्य।	29500.00 (₹ उनतीस हजार पांच सौ मात्र)	1500.00 +270.00 कुल रू० 1770.00	30 दिन	06 माह	निर्माण विंग उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम में भवन निर्माण कार्य हेतु "D" या उससे उच्च क्लास में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार।
2	जनपद बागेश्वर में ट्राउट हेक्टरों के अवशेष स्थित कार्य तथा तत्सम्बन्धी निर्माण कार्य।	48000.00 (₹ अड़चालीस हजार मात्र)	1500.00 +270.00 कुल रू० 1770.00	30 दिन	06 माह	निर्माण विंग उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम में भवन निर्माण कार्य हेतु "D" या उससे उच्च क्लास में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार।
3	जनपद बागेश्वर में जी०आइ०वी० कपकोट के अवशेष स्थित कार्य तथा तत्सम्बन्धी निर्माण कार्य।	49800.00 (₹ उनपचास हजार आठ सौ मात्र)	1500.00 +270.00 कुल रू० 1770.00	30 दिन	06 माह	निर्माण विंग उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम में भवन निर्माण कार्य हेतु "D" या उससे उच्च क्लास में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार।

नोट:- निविदा की अथवा इस कार्यालय में उपलब्ध निविदा सूचना में देखी जा सकती है। परियोजना प्रबन्धक

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/19/2024-25, Dtd: 18-09-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

SI.No.:1; Tender No. : 61/24/5309/OT/155/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 25-09-2024.

Brief Description: Wider base Level crossing sleeper (RT-8969) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0]. Qty- 648 Nos for SSE/P-WAY/Forbesganj, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No- 600700690019.

SI.No.:2; Tender No. : 30/24/1462/OT/156/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 23-09-2024.

Brief Description: Glass unit for door window size: (817x367x18.38)mm RCF's drg.no.LW- 54168, alt.no.'e' RDSO's specn.no. C-K404(Rev-1) with corrigendum no. 1 of March 2009 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 1000 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 180 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty-900 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty-50 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 5) Qty- 200 Nos for Katihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No-33539984.

SI.No.:3; Tender No. : 61/24/5181A/OT/157/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 23-09-2024.

Brief Description: Manufacturing & supply of High Viscous Nylon-66 Insulating Liner (HVN Liner) to RDSO Drg. No. 8751, for use with Warrant Sleeper to RDSO Drg. No. T/8746 suitable for 60Kg (UIC)/60E1 with latest alterations, Alt-3 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty-461410 Nos for SSE/P.WAY/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-60110612.

SI.No.:4; Tender No. : 61/24/9001/OT/158/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 23-09-2024.

Brief Description: Manufacture and Supply of 10125mm curved switches as per RDSO%u2019s Drg. No. T-6155 [with latest alterations] with ZU-1-60 Thick Web grade 880 Class-A Tongue rails and UIC 60 kg per m Grade-880, Class A or B Stock rails with elastic fasteners and Spring operated Setting Device [RDSO-T-6216 with latest alterations] complete with all fittings for 1 in 12, BG 60 Kg turn out for fan shaped layout on PSC Sleepers i.e., all fittings for switch portion as per sub assembly No. T-6155 [with latest alterations] in accordance with RDSOs standard drawing No. T-6154 [with latest alterations] excluding standard fish plates, fish bolts and nuts, Elastic Rail Clips and insulating Liners [The tentative List of Fittings as per Alt-5 is enclosed at Page 4 of Annexure-A of Rate Contract. Any addition/modification to the list of fittings, issued by RDSO in subsequent Alterations upto the date of closing of tender is also to be supplied by the firm for which no additional payment would be made. Specification: T-10/2000. Corrigendum No. 1 of Dec.2016 or with latest Alteration if any upto the date of closing of tender] [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: Yes, Stages:1]. Qty- 131 Set for SSE/P.WAY/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-60060256.

SI.No.:5; Tender No. : 30/24/1192/OT/159/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 25-09-2024.

Brief Description: WHEEL SET EARTHING EQUIPMENT AS PER Mat. Spec.-: RCF SPEC. No- EDTS101 REV-C AMND-3 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 691 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 332 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 1140 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty- 56 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 5) Qty-48 Nos for Katihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No- 33635067.

SI.No.:6; Tender No. : 61/24/5130/OT/160/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 25-09-2024.

Brief Description: BG PSC T/Out SLEEPER(1 in 12)To DRG No. T-4732 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0]. Qty- 60 Set for SSE/P-WAY/Barsoi, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No- 601900300017.

SI.No.:7; Tender No. : 61/24/5295/OT/161/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 26-09-2024.

Brief Description: Thick Web SEJ SLEEPER, T-8838 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 740 Nos for SR.DEN/C/Katihar, NFR (Bihar), 2) Qty- 632 Nos for DRM/W/Alipurdur Jn., NFR (West Bengal), 3) Qty- 100 Nos for SR.DEN/C/Lumding, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty- 18 Nos for DEN/Guwahati, NFR (Assam), 5) Qty- 842 Nos for DRM/W/Tinsukia, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-600500361442.

SI.No.:8; Tender No. : 30/24/0708/OT/162/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 27-09-2024.

Brief Description: Polymer Buffer Spring assembly pack to ICF Drg. No. ICF/STD-2-2-015, Item-5, Alt-A. Mat. Spec. :- ICF/MD/SPEC-353 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty-400 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 540 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 30226030.

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

PCMM, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

Sensex crosses historic 84,000 mark

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Benchmark Sensex closed above the historic 84,000-mark for first time while Nifty settled at a new record high on Friday, powered by a rally in frontline bank stocks along with upbeat trends in the US and Asian markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,359.51 points or 1.63 per cent to settle at an all-time high of 84,544.31. During the day, it soared 1,509.66 points or 1.81 per cent to hit the momentous intra-day peak of 84,694.46. The NSE Nifty surged 375.15 points or 1.48 per cent to close at a record 25,790.95 level. During the day, the gauge zoomed 433.45 points or 1.70 per cent to reach an all-time intra-day peak of 25,849.25. From the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra jumped over 5 per cent. JSW



Steel, ICICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, Nestle, Adani Ports, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Tata Steel were the other big gainers. State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Bajaj Finance were the laggards. "The Indian market has joined the rally following the 50bps Fed rate cut and super accommodative monetary policy. It is expected to bring positivity to the economy and foreign inflows in the short to medium-term as the global economy continues to

be robust," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. All key sectors contributed with realty, auto, and metal stocks leading the gains. The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.37 per cent and midcap index climbed 1.16 per cent. Realty soared 3.21 per cent, capital goods (2.32 per cent), auto (2.12 per cent), industrials (2.08 per cent), metal (1.82 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.78 per cent), financial services (1.55 per cent), bankex (1.44 per cent) and healthcare (1.10 per cent). A total of 2,442 stocks advanced while 1,502 declined and 115 remained unchanged on the BSE. On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,653.37 points or 1.99 per cent and Nifty surged 434.45 points or 1.71 per cent. Last Thursday, the 30-share BSE benchmark hit the 83,000-level for the first time. "Indian markets hit an all-time high as they cheered the Fed's rate cut. The 50 basis points rate cut was a positive surprise for global markets," Krishna Appala, Sr. Research Analyst, Capitalmind Research, said. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green. Equity markets in Europe were quoting lower. The US markets ended remarkably higher on Thursday. "The Dow and S&P 500 setting yet another record highs yesterday is indicative of the strength of this ongoing global bull run led by the mother market US," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Piyush Goyal to review India, ASEAN FTA in goods

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The progress of talks for the review of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in goods will figure during the visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to Laos, an official statement said on Friday. The two-day visit of Goyal to Vientiane, Laos, started on Friday. He is there to participate in the 21st ASEAN-India Economic Ministers (AEM-India) meeting and the 12th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM). These annual meetings of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) with their dialogue partners are being hosted by Laos, the ASEAN Chair for this year.

"In the AEM-India meeting, the ministers will review the progress in negotiations for review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA), the ministry said. The review is high on India's priority to make it more user-friendly, simple and trade facilitative for businesses, it said. It added that Goyal will have a number of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from participating countries on the sidelines of two institutional meetings. Meetings have been scheduled with the minister of the host country Laos and visiting ministers from Korea, Malaysia, Switzerland and Myanmar. India joined ASEAN in 1992 and became its Comprehensive Strategic Partner in 2022. For the last two consecutive years, ASEAN has been India's second largest trading partner. The next round of talks for the ongoing review meeting of the India-Asean free trade agreement in goods will be held in November. The third round of the negotiations was concluded on August 1 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The pact was signed in 2009. ASEAN is an important trade partner of India with about 11 per cent share in India's global trade. India's exports to the 10-nation bloc ASEAN were USD 41.2 billion in 2023-24, while imports aggregated at USD 80 billion in the last fiscal. Both sides are aiming to conclude the review in 2025.

Goa achieves maximum target of FRBM: CAG

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/PANAJI
The state of Goa has shown remarkable fiscal performance, with the government achieving significant improvements in revenue surplus, fiscal deficit, and debt management. Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in its report on State Finances Audit Report has appreciated the efforts of Government of Goa. The report highlights that despite the daunting challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the state has shown tremendous fiscal improvement, achieving most of the targets set under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act and Rules. Goa's revenue surplus saw an exponential rise, jumping from Rs. 59 crores in FY 2021-22 to an impressive Rs. 2,400 crores in FY 2022-23. This significant increase in revenue surplus is a clear indicator that the state has successfully built a robust revenue base. Another major achievement is the decline in the ratio of fiscal deficit to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) over the last two years, from 3.18% in FY 2021-22 to just 1.13% in FY 2022-23. "Chief Minister Dr. Pramod



Sawant after assuming office in 2019, has shaped the state's future as a sustainable and Swayampurna Goa which inspired a new era of growth, establishing Goa's status as a premier destination for tourism, entrepreneurship, and cultural exploration," a Goa government official stated. At the core of this transformation is "Swayampurna Goa", a visionary initiative born out of the necessity for self-sufficiency during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has played a pivotal role in Goa's transformation. "By prioritizing self-reliance, this strategic approach not only safeguarded Goa's financial well-being but also propelled it onto a robust growth path, laying the groundwork for a financially resilient future and cementing the state's economic stability," added the official. Now, in its second phase, Swayampurna Goa 2.0 is

600 million illness cases of foodborne diseases annually says WHO Chief

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Friday highlighted the critical role of food regulators in combating unsafe food, which causes 600 million cases of foodborne diseases and 4,20,000 deaths annually. In a video message to the second Global Food Regulators Summit in Delhi, Ghebreyesus said, "Our food systems are facing increasing challenges due to climate change, population growth, new technologies, and industrialisation." He revealed that 70 per cent of fatalities from unsafe food occur among children under five. "The food regulator community has a critical role to play in addressing these global challenges," the WHO Chief said, emphasising the need for coordinated efforts as over 3 million people cannot afford a nutritious diet. Ghebreyesus stressed that collaboration is essential to ensure safe and accessible food for all, as food systems



cross borders and continents. Union Health Minister J P Nadda, Food Minister Prahlad Joshi, Health Secretary and FSSAI Chairperson Apurva Chandra, Codex Chairperson Steve Wearne and FSSAI CEO G Kamala Vardhana Rao attended the event.



Tata Motors, ESAF tie up for Small Finance Bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Tata Motors on Friday said it has tied up with ESAF Small Finance Bank to offer financing solutions to its commercial vehicle customers. The entities have inked a memorandum of understanding focused on small commercial vehicles and light commercial vehicles initially, the Mumbai-based auto major said in a statement. The partnership will further expand to include financing for the automaker's entire commercial vehicle portfolio, it added. "Our partnership with ESAF Small Finance Bank enhances access to seamless financing solutions for our customers in deeper pockets of the country," Tata Motors Vice President & Business Head - SCV & PU Vinay Pathak said. The collaboration further strengthens the company's endeavour to boost entrepreneurship and job creation, particularly in first- and last-mile logistics, he added. Tata Motors offers an extensive range of sub 1-tonne to 55-tonne cargo vehicles and 10-seater to 51-seater mass mobility solutions, ranging in small commercial vehicles and pickups, trucks and buses segments to address the evolving needs of logistics and mass mobility segments.

Consumers feel it's normal to exaggerate income on loan applications: Survey

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Three out of five consumers surveyed in India believe it is normal for people to exaggerate income on loan applications, according to a report on people's attitudes toward first-party financial fraud. The survey by global analytics software company FICO stated that more than a quarter (27 per cent) of Indians believe it is normal for people to deliberately misrepresent their income on mortgage applications. "Three in five consumers (63 per cent) think it is OK or normal for people to exaggerate their income on loan applications, significantly more than the global average of 39 per cent,"



the survey said. More than half (54 per cent) believe it is normal to falsify insurance claims, the global survey which examined 1,000 people in India said. Many

consumers believe it is never acceptable to exaggerate income on a personal loan application, while another third (35 per cent) finds it acceptable under specific conditions. "With over 60 per cent of Indian consumers viewing income falsification as acceptable or justified, banks face a very real problem of 'liar loans' that could skew risk assessment and increase bad loan rates," said Aashish Sharma, APAC segment leader for risk lifecycle and decision management at FICO. As many 1,000 Indian adults were surveyed, along with approximately 12,000 other consumers in Canada, U.S., Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, The Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, U.K. And Spain. Globally, attitudes are notably different, with the survey revealing the majority of consumers (56 per cent) firmly reject the idea of exaggerating income on loan applications, viewing it as never acceptable. Just, one in four (24 per cent) consider it permissible in certain circumstances, and only one in seven (15 per cent) view it as a normal practice, the report said. "Many consumers may not see this as harmful behaviour, but it's important to understand that when applying for financial products, applicants typically certify that the information they provide is accurate," Sharma said.

LIC Mutual Fund launches new scheme



PTI ■ MUMBAI
LIC Mutual Fund on Friday launched a new Manufacturing Fund, an open-ended equity scheme following the manufacturing theme. The new fund offer (NFO) will remain open for subscription till October 4 while the units under the scheme would be allotted on October 11, the company said. It also said that the scheme will be benchmarked to the Nifty India Manufacturing Index (Total

Return Index). "India's robust GDP growth, rapid urbanization, the growing middle-class population, the government's export incentives and policy initiatives like PLI scheme and 'Make-in-India' are driving demand for manufactured goods," said R K Jha, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, LIC Mutual Fund. "Consequently, the country is largely being developed as a manufacturing hub for the world. The scheme aims to provide a diversified portfolio of companies that come under the ambit of manufacturing theme, including automobiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, heavy engineering products, metals, shipbuilding, and petroleum products, among others, the company said. The investment objective of the scheme is to achieve long-term capital appreciation by predominantly investing in equity and equity-related instruments of companies following manufacturing theme, it said. LIC Mutual Fund, however, added that there is no assurance that the investment objective of the scheme will be achieved.

NFRA's plan to revise auditing; need time for consultations: ICAI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI on Friday asked regulator NFRA to pause the proposed changes in the auditing standard SA 600 pertaining to group audits, saying the move came as a surprise and sought more time for comprehensive review and discussions with all stakeholders. ICAI and NFRA are on different pages on revising the Standard of Auditing (SA) 600 which is applicable in the case of audit of companies which have subsidiaries and associates. Broadly, the holding company is audited by a principal or main auditor and the subsidiaries and/or associates by other or component auditors. While the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has mooted changes to the standard citing several cases

of corporate frauds and audit failures/deficiencies in recent times, ICAI is of the view that the revision could adversely impact small and medium CA (Chartered Accountant) firms. In a detailed statement about NFRA's consultation paper issued on September 17, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on Friday called for a pause in the revision process to allow for a comprehensive review and discussion with all relevant stakeholders. The institute's central council, on September 17, expressed its view that while the current SA 600 has been effective and has stood the test of time, there is room for further review and strengthening to better serve public interest, according to the statement. The council has asked the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AASB) to



review the matter. "Unfortunately, while this issue was still being discussed in the aforesaid meeting of the council, NFRA has come out with an exposure draft of SA 600 for revision inviting public comments on the same day which has come as a surprise to the institute," the statement said. At present, the 2002 version of SA 600 prepared by ICAI is in force. Since all CAs are its members, ICAI said that it ensures uniform standard of qualification and professional competence. "Given this uniformity, ICAI believes it is neither possible nor desirable for the group auditor to assess or exercise control over the decisions of a component auditor who is equally qualified," it noted. Further, ICAI said that under the existing SA 600, the group auditor already has the power to specify to what extent he relied on component auditor reporting and can seek further clarification or justification from the component auditor, if required.

Rubrik Cyber Recovery available for Nutanix AHV

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Rubrik, the Zero Trust Data Security Company, on Friday announced its Rubrik Cyber Recovery capabilities are now available for Nutanix AHV, a modern and secure virtualization platform that powers both virtual machines (VMs) and containers on-premises and in public clouds. With Rubrik Cyber Recovery, Nutanix AHV users can now confidently test and validate their recovery plans in clean rooms and expedite their forensic investigations, helping to provide cyber resilience following a cyberattack. According to the most recent Rubrik Zero Labs report, 83% of all organizations' encrypted data observed by Rubrik is within a virtualized architecture, such as Nutanix. While the Nutanix platform is

inherently secure with native features such as automated threat and anomaly detection, role-based access control, lifecycle management, and micro segmentation, a "defense in depth" strategy with multiple layers of security provides holistic protection. Rubrik Cyber Recovery addresses this need by enabling administrators to plan, test, and validate cyber recovery plans regularly and recover quickly in the event of a cyberattack. "As both the hypervisor and cybersecurity markets continue to rapidly evolve, organizations are seeking the most secure and intelligent virtualization solutions to store their critical business data and mitigate risk in the face of cyber-attacks and unexpected downtime," said Lee Caswell.

INBRIEF

HARBHAJAN SINGH HANDS OVER APPOINTMENT LETTERS
CHANDIGARH: Punjab Power Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO on Thursday handed over appointment letters to 17 newly recruited Assistant Engineers (AEs) (Mechanical) of the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL).
GNDU INTER-DEPARTMENT CARROM COMPETITION
AMRITSAR: Guru Nanak Dev University Inter - Department CARROM (Boys/Girls) competition was organized under FIT INDIA Program (Govt. of India) by GNDU Campus Sports. 28Boys and 26 Girls teams of various departments participated in this competition.
IMPROVING EDUCATION : GNDU DEAN ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
AMRITSAR: A meeting of the College Development Council under the chairmanship of Prof. (Dr.) Palwinder Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs was held in the Syndicate Room of the University.



A GROUNDBREAKING STUDY OF THE GUPTA DYNASTY

Author Sanjeev Kumar's *Treasures of the Gupta Empire* is celebrated as a landmark achievement in numismatics and historical research, providing a thorough and updated exploration of Gupta Dynasty coinage, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

In a celebration of historical scholarship and numismatic research, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) hosted the much-anticipated launch of *Treasures of the Gupta Empire*, a seminal work by renowned numismatist Sanjeev Kumar. The event drew a distinguished assembly of historians, scholars and cultural enthusiasts, each eager to witness the unveiling of this groundbreaking book that promises to redefine our understanding of the Gupta Dynasty, a golden era in Indian history.



emphasising that the book is the result of decades of dedicated research and years of meticulous writing. He passionately described the Gupta Dynasty's history, spanning the 4th to the 6th centuries AD, as being as rich and artistically significant as that of ancient Rome and Greece. Kumar recounted his early fascination with Gupta coins, drawn by their artistic features and initially puzzled by the Brahmi script. His discovery of these coins, not featured in his educational materials growing up, led him to delve deeper into their historical significance.

Kumar highlighted the book's importance, noting that it challenges and potentially rewrites established narratives about India's history. He pointed out the inaccuracies in current historical accounts and aimed to correct them with his research. The Gupta period, often romanticised as the "Golden Age," saw significant advancements in science and culture, and Kumar's work uncovers additional mysteries from this era that have remained

hidden for over 1,600 years. To conclude his speech, Kumar introduced a short film that complements his book, inviting attendees to gain further insight into his groundbreaking research. Mr. Kumar's book, *Treasures of the Gupta Empire*, is celebrated not only for its exhaustive research but also for its role in bridging significant gaps in the historical narrative of the Gupta Dynasty. The work delves into the detailed iconography and craftsmanship of Gupta coins, offering fresh perspectives on rulers like Samudragupta and Chandragupta. Kumar's meticulous documentation and analysis are poised to become a crucial reference for scholars and enthusiasts alike. The book launch was more than just an academic event, it was a celebration of a

lifelong pursuit of historical truth and preservation. Kumar's dedication to the study of Gupta coinage was evident throughout the evening, as he shared anecdotes about his journey from a young enthusiast to a leading authority on Gupta numismatics. authoritative, making complex historical and numismatic information understandable to a broad audience. His ability to contextualise the coins within the broader historical framework of the Gupta Empire enriches the reader's understanding of this pivotal era in Indian history. The book highlights several key coins that are being published for the first time, sourced from major museum collections and private holdings. These include rare specimens that offer new insights into the art and symbolism of the Gupta era. Kumar's ability to decode the complex imagery and inscriptions on these coins provides a window into the political and cultural dynamics of the Gupta Dynasty. Additionally, the book's updated classification and identification of coin rarities contribute significantly to the field. By providing new findings based on recent research, Kumar not only fills gaps left by previous studies but also sets a new standard for Gupta numismatic scholarship. *Treasures of the Gupta Empire* is an essential addition to the library of anyone interested in Indian history and numismatics. Kumar's groundbreaking work not only preserves the legacy of the Gupta Dynasty but also illuminates its influence on the broader structure of Indian history. This book is an attestation to Kumar's dedication and expertise and will undoubtedly be a valuable resource for historians, researchers and numismatic enthusiasts for years to come.

about book: 'TREASURES OF THE GUPTA EMPIRE'

Sanjeev Kumar's *Treasures of the Gupta Empire* is a landmark achievement in the field of numismatics and historical research. This second edition of the book offers a comprehensive and updated exploration of Gupta Dynasty coinage. Kumar's meticulous research and expert analysis present a detailed catalog of over 6,400 Gupta coins, many of which are being published for the first time. The book stands out for its depth and precision. Kumar employs advanced scientific techniques to examine the coins, uncovering new insights into their production, usage and the political and cultural context of the Gupta period. The rich visual documentation, including high-quality images and detailed descriptions of the coins, enhances the book's value as a reference for both scholars and collectors. One of the book's notable strengths is its ability to blend rigorous academic research with an engaging narrative. Kumar's writing is accessible yet

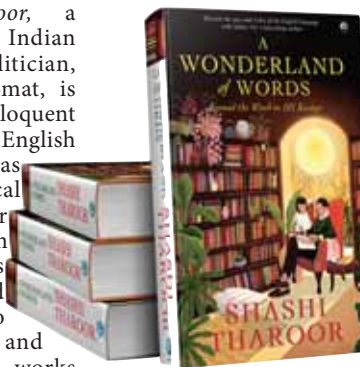
authoritative, making complex historical and numismatic information understandable to a broad audience. His ability to contextualise the coins within the broader historical framework of the Gupta Empire enriches the reader's understanding of this pivotal era in Indian history. The book highlights several key coins that are being published for the first time, sourced from major museum collections and private holdings. These include rare specimens that offer new insights into the art and symbolism of the Gupta era. Kumar's ability to decode the complex imagery and inscriptions on these coins provides a window into the political and cultural dynamics of the Gupta Dynasty. Additionally, the book's updated classification and identification of coin rarities contribute significantly to the field. By providing new findings based on recent research, Kumar not only fills gaps left by previous studies but also sets a new standard for Gupta numismatic scholarship. *Treasures of the Gupta Empire* is an essential addition to the library of anyone interested in Indian history and numismatics. Kumar's groundbreaking work not only preserves the legacy of the Gupta Dynasty but also illuminates its influence on the broader structure of Indian history. This book is an attestation to Kumar's dedication and expertise and will undoubtedly be a valuable resource for historians, researchers and numismatic enthusiasts for years to come.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

Tharoor's Lexical Adventure

Wonderland of Words by Shashi Tharoor is a fascinating book for readers of all ilk for it is interesting and informative at the same time, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

Shashi Tharoor, a renowned Indian author, politician, and former diplomat, is celebrated for his eloquent command of the English language, as well as his sharp political insights. A member of the Indian Parliament, he has contributed immensely to literature and diplomacy, with works like 'Inglorious Empire' and 'The Great Indian Novel' cementing his place as a significant voice in postcolonial discourse. His latest work, *Wonderland of Words*, delves into the beauty, complexity, and richness of language, making it a delightful read for word enthusiasts.



ABOUT THE BOOK
Book: A Wonderland of Words Around the World in 101 Essays by SHASHI THAROOR
Publisher: Aleph Book Company
Price: ₹999

words and concepts engaging for the layperson. Tharoor's signature wit shines through, with wordplay and clever references that will leave readers smiling. However, this is not just a book for linguists or lovers of literature; it's a celebration of language in all its forms, from the colloquial to the poetic. Tharoor's background as both a diplomat and a public intellectual adds an additional layer of depth to the book. For readers familiar with Tharoor's work, *Wonderland of Words* serves as a refreshing departure from his more politically charged books, offering a lighter, though equally insightful, exploration of a subject that has been central to his career: the power of words. Whether you are a language lover or simply curious about the magic behind everyday words, this book will leave you appreciating the intricacies of the English language and its potential to both inform and entertain.

NEW ARRIVALS

SEPTEMBER RELEASES BY Rupa Publications and Penguin Random House



Who You Were Meant to Be: Become the Best Version of Yourself
By ZOE MCKEY (PRICE: ₹195, PAGES: 104) Rupa Publication

In *Who You Were Meant to Be*, Zoe McKey provides a roadmap to self-discovery and personal growth by exploring influential personality studies from renowned thinkers like Gary Chapman, Carl Jung, and Isabel Briggs Myers. This book offers a research-based, psychologically proven framework to help readers understand their strengths, improve self-awareness, and make more meaningful life choices. By integrating these insights into daily life, you can enhance your self-worth, self-acceptance, and self-love. McKey's practical approach encourages readers to uncover their true selves and embrace a more fulfilling existence, breaking free from others' expectations to define their own path.

Friends: India's Closest Strategic Partners
By Sreeram Chaulia (Price: ₹795, Pages: 304) Rupa Publication

Sreeram Chaulia's *Friends: India's Closest Strategic Partners* explores the significance of India's international friendships in achieving its goal of becoming a leading global power. This insightful book examines India's strategic partnerships with Japan, Australia, the USA, Russia, France, Israel, and the UAE, analyzing how these relationships shape and are shaped by India's position in the world. Chaulia delves into how India balances its alliances in a divided global landscape, the evolving value of these partnerships, and whether strategic ties will evolve into formal alliances. This comprehensive study provides a unique perspective on India's role as a rising power and its approach to global diplomacy.

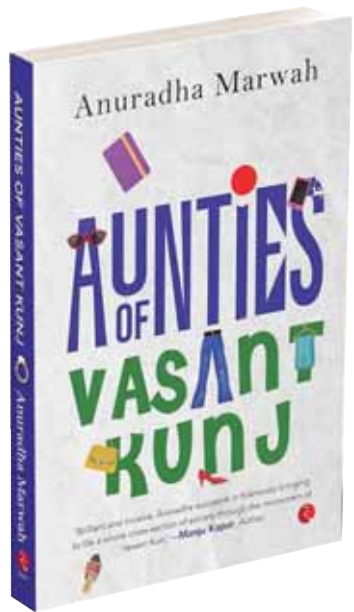
Intermezzo
By SALLY ROONEY (PRICE: ₹699, PAGES: 448) Penguin

Sally Rooney's *Intermezzo* delves into the emotional complexities of two brothers, Peter and Ivan. Peter, a successful lawyer, struggles with addiction and conflicting relationships, while Ivan, a chess prodigy, embarks on a transformative affair with Margaret, an older woman with a troubled history. Rooney's novel weaves their stories together to explore themes of unspoken emotions, human connection, and the delicate balance between desire and despair. With her characteristic insight and depth, *Intermezzo* offers a profound meditation on self-discovery and vulnerability, making it a compelling and introspective read.

A Glimpse into the Complexities of Womanhood

In *Aunties of Vasant Kunj*, Anuradha Marwah humorously and thoughtfully explores the lives of three different women dealing with societal expectations and their own identities. Set in Delhi's upscale Vasant Kunj neighborhood, the novel vividly depicts the challenges, strength and subtle defiance of middle-class Indian women, writes **TEAM VIVA**

Anuradha Marwah's *Aunties of Vasant Kunj* is a captivating and witty portrayal of middle-class life in Delhi, focusing on the everyday experiences of women in the upscale yet paradoxically conventional neighborhood of Vasant Kunj. What makes this novel particularly engaging is Marwah's ability to humanise her characters while offering a sharp critique of societal norms, all wrapped in a layer of humour and empathy. The novel revolves around three women: Shailaja, Nilima Gandhi and Dini, each representing different struggles and aspirations within the framework of traditional Indian society. Shailaja, the newly single woman in her forties, finds herself navigating the social fabric of Vasant Kunj after a long-term live-in relationship ends abruptly. Her interactions with the neighbourhood 'aunties' are often comical, as they subject her to a barrage of unsolicited advice and thinly veiled judgments. Shailaja's story is a reflection of the often-overlooked struggles of women who dare to live life on their own terms, even when it means standing apart from societal expectations.



ABOUT THE BOOK
Book: In Aunties of Vasant Kunj by ANURADHA MARWAH
Publisher: Rupa Publications
₹395.00

of inadequacy and loneliness. Despite her seemingly secure life, Nilima is constantly seeking validation and appreciation, something she rarely receives. Marwah beautifully captures the quiet desperation of women like Nilima, who are often caught in the endless cycle of domestic duties and the burden of fulfilling

everyone's expectations but their own. Dini, the third protagonist, provides a refreshing counterpoint to the more traditional lives of Shailaja and Nilima. A social worker and women's rights activist, Dini is deeply invested in her work and unapologetically vocal about issues like domestic violence and women's empowerment. Her character adds a layer of depth and seriousness to the narrative, highlighting the struggles faced by women across different socio-economic backgrounds. Dini's perspective forces readers to reflect on the broader issues of gender inequality and the role of activism in challenging patriarchal structures. One of the strengths of *Aunties of Vasant Kunj* is Marwah's use of humour to explore complex themes. The interactions between the characters, particularly the sharp-tongued banter among the aunties, are both entertaining and thought-provoking. Through these conversations, Marwah delves into topics like marital expectations, the obsession with propriety and the pressure to conform. Despite the light-hearted tone, the novel never shies away from the deeper, often uncomfortable realities faced by its characters. Marwah's writing style is engaging, drawing readers into the world of Vasant Kunj with vivid descriptions

and lifelike dialogue. The neighbourhood itself becomes a character, a microcosm of Indian society, where tradition and modernity constantly clash. The author's portrayal of this world is both affectionate and critical, celebrating the resilience of these women while questioning the societal norms that bind them. *Aunties of Vasant Kunj* is a beautifully crafted novel that balances humour with poignancy. Anuradha Marwah has created a narrative that is both relatable and thought-provoking, offering a window into the complex lives of women who are often stereotyped or overlooked. It's a story that waits around encouraging readers to think more deeply about the women in their own

lives and the quiet battles they may be fighting. Marwah's nuanced portrayal of her characters, combined with her sharp social commentary, makes this book a must-read for anyone interested in the intricate dynamics of contemporary Indian life.



Pacers put India on top, big lead against Bangladesh on Day 2

PTI ■ CHENNAI
Jasprit Bumrah's artistry seemed incomprehensible for an out of sorts Bangladesh batting line-up as India took complete control of the opening Test with an overall lead of 308 runs at end of second day's play. Bumrah (4/50) once again worked his magic in company of Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep (2/19) and Ravindra Jadeja as Bangladesh were all-out for a paltry 149 in their first innings in reply to India's 376.

With a lead of 227 runs, India ended second at 81 for 3 with Shubman Gill (33 batting) and Rishabh Pant (12 batting) at the crease.

The rest of the six Bangladesh wickets were equally shared by rookie Akash Deep (2/19), seasoned Ravindra Jadeja (2/19) and Mohammed Siraj (2/30).

However, the beginning of India's second innings was not really bright as they lost skipper Rohit Sharma (5) and Yashvir Jaiswal (10) with 28 on board.

Rohit was forced to play a slightly short of the length delivery from Taskin Ahmed, and the resultant edge ended with Zakir Hasan at gully. Jaiswal was guilty of succumbing to the temptation of going for an expansive drive after pacer Nahid Rana pitched one full following up on a few short-pitched deliveries.

But the 28 for two was not really alarming considering the substantial first innings lead India had amassed by then. However, they needed immediate consolidation to further tighten the grip.

Gill provided that in the company of Virat Kohli (17, 37 balls) for the third wicket while adding 39 runs.

Gill played some delectable shots either side of the pitch, generating immense power and timing from his typical minimum-follow through of the bat method.

A short-arm jab through covers off Rana for boundary was the standout shot from the right-hander on the day. But the Kohli's dismissal, led before to spinner Mehidy



Hasan Miraz, late on the day slightly soured the proceedings for India. However, on a day when a total of 17 wickets fell Bumrah, as usual, was the lead performer. The quick slipped into his elements straightway and fetched India the first breakthrough dismissing in-form Shadman Islam, who shouldered arms to an in-cutter with disastrous consequences. It was a dismissal where

Bumrah set up Shadman with a few deliveries round the wicket (for the southpaw) and then came over the wicket to keep the length intact but subtly changing the line of attack.

That indecisiveness was the hallmark of the rest of the Bangladesh innings, as Bumrah added the wickets of Mushfiqur Rahim, Taskin and Hasan Mahmud to his collection.

Centurion Ravichandran Ashwin endured a rare wicketless innings but others stepped in for him, and Bangladesh too contributed with their timorous approach. It was reflected in the dismissals of Litton Das (22, 42 balls) and the vastly experienced Shakib Al-Hasan (32, 64 balls).

They were looking comfortable in the middle during the course of their 51-run (94 balls) alliance for the sixth wicket.

But Litton chose to play a rather needless uppish slog sweep off Jadeja that was grabbed by substitute fielder Dhruv Jurel, who came in for pacer Mohammed Siraj. Siraj had left the field for a few overs to tend to cramps.

Shakib's dismissal was even more bizarre. The left-hander went for a reverse sweep off a Jadeja full delivery and the ball took a deflection off his boots en route to the big gloves of Rishabh Pant.

Pacer Akash chipped in with two wickets in as many balls to oust Zakir and Mominul Haq which hastened Bangladesh's downfall.

Before they collapsed in a heap, Bangladesh had a few moments of delight as they managed to price out the last four Indian wickets, including Ashwin (113) and Jadeja (86), to put a quick end to the hosts' first dig. Ashwin and Jadeja departed after adding 199 runs, which came off 240 balls and 189 minutes, across three sessions. Taskin (3/55) bowled better lines and returned with the wickets of Ashwin, Jadeja and Akash. Fellow pacer Hasan Mahmud added a fifth wicket to his kitty in the form of Bumrah to bring curtains to the Indian innings.

RR appoints Vikram Rathour as batting coach

PTI ■ JAIPUR
Rajasthan Royals on Friday announced the appointment of former India opener Vikram Rathour as their batting coach ahead of the IPL 2025.

Rathour, 55, is the second high-profile appointment by the franchise for the upcoming season after they roped in Rahul Dravid as their chief coach.

Rathour served as India's batting coach in the set-up under Dravid as they guided Rohit Sharma and Co to victory in the T20 World Cup earlier this year.

"Rathour, a seasoned cricket professional, joins the Royals' coaching setup shortly after the franchise welcomed Rahul Dravid back as head coach," Rajasthan Royals said in a statement.

"It will reignite a successful partnership that elevated India to the top of the rankings in all three formats during their stint together, and led the country to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 title earlier this year."

Rathour has played six Tests and seven ODIs and has 33 first-class centuries to his name.

He was India's batting coach



from 2019 till 2023, during which he guided players like Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill, and KL Rahul through crucial phases of their development.

"Having worked closely with Vikram for many years, I can confidently say that his technical expertise, calm demeanour, and deep understanding of Indian conditions make him a perfect fit for the Royals," said Dravid.

"Together, we've built a strong rapport, guiding India to key successes, and I'm thrilled to reunite with him. His ability to nurture young talent and elevate players' potential will be invaluable as we aim to

Indian men beat Iran to inch closer to gold; women shocked by Poland

PTI ■ BUDAPEST
The Indian men's team scored yet another thumping 3.5-0.5 points victory over Iran to stake claim for the gold medal in the Open section but the women suffered a shocking 1.5-2.5 points defeat at the hands of Poland in the eighth round of the 45th Chess Olympiad currently underway here.

With their eighth victory in as many matches, the Indian men took their tally to 16 points and stretched their lead to a massive two points over nearest rivals Hungary and Uzbekistan with just three rounds left in the biggest chess event on the planet.

World number four Arjun Erigaisi started the rampage with black pieces and crashed through the defences of Bardiya Daneshvar who proved no match for the Indian. World Championship challenger D Gukesh then put it across Parham Maghsoodloo with black pieces, swindling the Iranian towards the end of the first time-control.

R Praggnanandhaa played out



a draw with Amin Tabatabaei to make sure of an Indian victory and Vidit Gujrathi added to the team's tally as he outclassed Idani Pouya in all departments of the game to give another huge victory to the team.

For Arjun, this was another step towards the 2800-rating mark as he took his personal tally to a remarkable 7.5 points from eight games. In live ratings, Arjun is now at 2793 points, and if he does cross the 2800 mark, he will be the 16th player in history - and only the second Indian after Viswanathan Anand -- to do so. Taking a cue from Arjun, Gukesh made sure he kept closing in, and his

Iranian parted with a piece for a handful of pawns but fell prey to an easy tactical stroke that ended the game.

Vidit Gujrathi went for the Sozin variation against the Sicilian defense by Pouya and his attack was simply overwhelming, while Praggnanandhaa took things easy to ward off any serious counter play by Tabatabaei.

In the women's section, the Indian team faltered for once as Grandmaster D Harika continued to struggle with her form on the top board, going down to Alina Kashlinskaya. This was Harika's third loss in the event. Polish Monika Socko defeated R Vaishali on the second board in a technical endgame where the latter made some unforced errors while Divya Deshmukh fought very hard to beat Aleksandra Maltsevskaya on the third board. It was left to Vantika Agrawal to equalise and it looked like she had a complete winning position on hand. However, in to the sixth hour of play, Vantika made an optical blunder under time pressure and had to be content with a draw in the end with Alicja Sliwicka.

The Indian women's team was joined by Poland and Kazakhstan on 14 points apiece at the top of the table, while USA, Armenia and Ukraine are a point behind. In the next round, Indian men will take on Uzbekistan while the women are pitted against USA.

Results (Round 8) Open: Iran (12) lost to India (16) 0.5-3.5 (Parham Maghsoodloo lost to D Gukesh; R Praggnanandhaa drew with Amin Tabatabaei; Bardiya Daneshvar lost to Arjun Erigaisi; Vidit Gujrathi beat Idani Pouya); Hungary (14) beat Armenia (12) 2.5-1.5; Serbia (12) lost to Uzbekistan (14) 1.5-2.5; United States of America (13) beat France (11) 2.5-1.5; China (13) beat Romania (11) 2.5-1.5.

Women: Poland (14) beat India (14) 2.5-1.5 (Alina Kashlinskaya beat D Harika; R Vaishali lost to Monika Socko; Aleksandra Maltsevskaya lost to Divya Deshmukh; Vantika Agrawal drew with Alicja Sliwicka); Kazakhstan (14) beat France (12) 2.5-1.5; Uzbekistan (11) lost to United States of America (13) 0.5-3.5; Hungary (11) lost to Ukraine (13) 1.5-2.5.



Dhanush wins bronze at Junior Weightlifting World Championships

PTI ■ LEON (SPAIN)
Indian lifter Loganathan Dhanush on Friday claimed the bronze medal in the 55 kg weight category at the IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships here.

This achievement marks the first-ever medal for an Indian male athlete in the Junior weightlifting World Championships.

The 17-year-old lifted a total of 231 kg, also securing a bronze in the snatch event with 107 kg.

Interestingly, Dhanush competed in Group B, and sat through the group A session. The lifters with the highest

entry weights are placed in Group A, followed by B and so on.

"I got more and more nervous as it went on, but I never thought I would win a medal," Dhanush told IWF.

He finished 13th in the clean and jerk section with a best effort of 124kg.

K. Duong of Vietnam took the gold with a total of 253 kg, while Tomari Kotaro of Japan earned silver with 247 kg.

In women's competition, Payal finished 6th in the 45 kg weight category with a total lift of 150 kg.

A total of nine Indian athletes are participating in the event.

Early red card hampers Barcelona in Champions League

AP ■ MONACO
Barcelona's perfect start to the season ended with a 2-1 loss at Monaco in the revamped Champions League on Thursday, a defeat which happened after defender Eric Garcia was sent off after 11 minutes.

Garcia pulled back Takumi Minamoto when the Japan forward intercepted a panicky pass out from Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen.

Barca won its first five league games in the Spanish league under new coach Hansi Flick but saw Monaco take the lead



It was his fourth goal of the season but the first of the European Championship-winning Spain forward's career in the Champions League. According to UEFA, Yamal became the second-youngest

scorer in Champions League history at 17 years and 68 days - just 28 days older than teammate Ansu Fati when he netted against Inter Milan in December 2019.

In July, Yamal became the youngest player ever to score at a Euro when he netted a stunning goal in Spain's semifinal victory over France. George Ilenikhena showed equally good composure to restore Monaco's lead in the 71st. The 18-year-old forward latched onto a pass over the top and confidently beat Ter Stegen with Prince Albert of Monaco among the celebrating fans.

It was his first goal for Monaco and his second in the Champions League, with the other also coming against Barca last season when he played for Antwerp.

"I'm happy, we played really well together and we deserved the victory," Ilenikhena said. "If we play like this we can go far."

Fati, meanwhile, recovered from a foot injury and came on as a substitute in the 88th minute.

The 21-year-old forward, who returned from a loan to English Premier League club Brighton, had not played for Barca since 2023.

McLaren, Norris seek pressure on Red Bull in Singapore Grand Prix

AP ■ SINGAPORE
McLaren is ahead of Red Bull in the Formula 1 constructors' race. Now for Lando Norris to put pressure on Max Verstappen for the drivers' title.

Oscar Piastri's win last week at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix put McLaren top in the teams' standings - the key to F1's lavish prize money - but teammate Norris only took a small bite out of Verstappen's lead.

After starting 15th, Norris passed Verstappen late in the race to finish fourth, but the Dutch driver still leads by 59 points heading into the Singapore Grand Prix.

The talk in F1 this week has focused on McLaren's seemingly flexible rear wing, which might help at high speed. Piastri said Thursday it's legal and isn't a "magic bullet" for their recent success. F1 looks wide open right now with Ferrari and Mercedes both fighting for wins.

McLaren will still have to battle hard even if Red Bull isn't on the pace at a track where Verstappen has never won. Piastri is the on-form driver in recent races, but in only his second season, he's heading into a late-season swing of tracks like Singapore that he doesn't know well. The Australian confirmed Thursday he'll still help out Norris' title challenge where he can.

"There's still going to be some tough races in the latter part of the year on tracks that

I've only been to once," Piastri said. "I feel like I'm improving a lot as I go through my career, but I'm certainly not the finished product yet."

Red Bull's bumpy ride Singapore was the only track where Red Bull didn't win last year. The team couldn't find a competitive setup and Verstappen was far off the pace all weekend as Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. Took the victory.

Red Bull left Azerbaijan with some optimism that it's fixed at least some of the balance

problems introduced by its attempts to upgrade the car this season. Verstappen - now without a win in seven races - wasn't happy with the car in Baku but emphasized it was a mistaken setup choice, not the underlying performance.

Singapore is slower than Baku and a trickier track for Red Bull, though. "Our car generally is not very good on bumps and curbs and that's of course what you have around here, so we need to try to stabilize that a bit," Verstappen

said Thursday in Singapore. Street circuits tend to suit Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez, who was fast in Baku in search of a podium finish since April. Colliding with Sainz meant all those efforts were for nothing, though.

After Singapore, Red Bull and its second team RB are expected to choose whether to keep Daniel Ricciardo at RB or recall Liam Lawson instead. Ricciardo said "decisions will be made" before the next race in Austin, Texas, on October 20.