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INSIDE

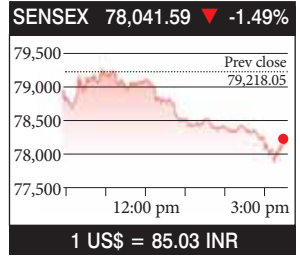
**MONEY 10**  
SIX ENTITIES PAY ₹ 3.49 CRORE TO SETTLE FRONT-RUNNING TRADE CASE WITH SEBI

CHANDIGARH, SATURDAY DECEMBER 21, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

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## MARKETS



## DND flyway will remain toll-free: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday ruled that the Delhi-Noida-Direct (DND) flyway will be toll-free as it dismissed a plea by a private firm challenging the 2016 decision of the Allahabad High Court order asking it to stop collecting toll from commuters. The decision will benefit lakhs of people who commute daily on the flyway. A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan held that awarding a contract to private firm Noida Toll Bridge Company Ltd (NTBCL) to collect toll from commuters plying on the DND flyway was unjust, unfair and arbitrary. "There is no reason for the collection of user or toll fee to continue. We hold that the agreement (for toll collection) is invalid," the bench said. It pulled up the Noida authority for delegating toll collection to private firm NTBCL, which did not have any prior experience and said it has resulted in unjust enrichment.

## 11 killed in LPG tanker-truck collision on Jaipur-Ajmer highway

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAIPUR

At least 11 people were killed and about 35 injured after an LPG tanker collided with a truck on Friday here sparking a massive fireball. It turned a stretch of the Jaipur-Ajmer highway into an inferno and nearly 40 vehicles were gutted. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and his predecessor Ashok Gehlot expressed grief over the loss of lives in the crash.



Firefighters at the site of the accident after a truck loaded with a chemical collided with some other vehicles and caught fire on the Jaipur-Ajmer Highway PTI

The Rajasthan government announced financial assistance of Rs five lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs one lakh for the injured. In a social media post, Modi announced an ex gratia of Rs two lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

President Murmu said the news of the loss of lives in the Jaipur gas tanker accident was very painful and offered her condolences to the families of the deceased. "The news of the death of many people due to a road accident in Jaipur is very painful. I pray to God for peace to the departed souls. My deepest condolences to their families! I pray that the injured get well soon," she said in a social media post in Hindi. Expressing grief over the loss of lives, Prime Minister Modi spoke to the Chief Minister to enquire about the incident and assured him of all possible support.



Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra greets Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan during INDIA bloc MPs' protest against Home Minister Amit Shah over his remarks related to Dr BR Ambedkar, at Vijay Chowk Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

## Bitter Winter Session comes to a stormy end

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The Winter Session of the Parliament came to an end on Friday as it was adjourned sine die, but not before an unprecedented verbal spat, bitterness between the Ruling and Opposition members, and less productivity of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. However the Session also saw the gamechanger simultaneous polls Bill being tabled. The Parliament this session witnessed a low point of alleged pushing and shoving amidst rival parties' Members

of Parliament (MPs) that left two Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members hospitalised, and leading to an FIR against Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. The acrimony forced the Opposition parties to move a motion of no-confidence against the Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, which was, however, dismissed by the Upper House Deputy Chairman Harivansh. Unrelenting protests peaked and ranged from the Adani controversy to Sambhal and then to the demand of sacking of Home Minister Amit Shah for his remarks on Dr BR

Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. The Parliament also saw a four-day debate on the constitutional journey of India, which began on a high pitched note of talks on Ambedkar's legacy pertaining to the Constitution, which saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation. However, the debate ended with a speech by Home Minister Amit Shah in Rajya Sabha, creating flutters and sparking protests across the country for his remarks on Baba Saheb which both the ruling parties and Opposition parties have made attempts to capitalise on.

Delhi continued to be the most polluted place in India - for the fifth consecutive day - with the overall air quality of the national capital continuing to be in the "severe" category. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data, Delhi's overall 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) was 429 (severe) at 4 pm on Friday. The air pollution in Delhi was over 17 times the limit prescribed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), in the morning which rose to 43 times in the evening, according to official data. The overall level of PM2.5 (a chief pollutant) in Delhi was 255.3 micrograms per cubic meter.

## WEATHER



## Delhi pollution is 43 times over WHO limit



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

## PM Modi leaves for Kuwait today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Kuwait beginning Saturday will help in opening a new chapter in bilateral ties, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday. The visit would help develop a more dynamic partnership between the two countries, it said. The MEA said India was looking at boosting ties in a range of areas including defence and trade. Modi is paying the visit at the invitation of Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, it said. During the visit, Modi will hold discussions with the leadership of Kuwait and also interact with the Indian community. The last Indian PM to visit Kuwait was Indira Gandhi in 1981.



The Indian community is the largest expatriate community in Kuwait. India is among its top trading partners, with bilateral trade valued at USD 10.47 billion in the financial year 2023-24. Kuwait is India's sixth largest crude supplier, meeting 3 per cent of the country's energy needs. Indian exports to Kuwait reached USD 2 Billion for the first time, while investments by the Kuwait Investment Authority in India exceed USD 10 Billion. India and Kuwait have enjoyed traditionally friendly relations, with links dating back to pre-oil Kuwait when maritime trade with India was the backbone of its economy. Kuwait's economy revolved around its fine harbour and maritime activities which included ship building, pearl diving, fishing and voyages to India on wooden dhows carrying dates, Arabian horses and pearls that were traded for wood, cereals, clothes and spices, according to people tracking the ties between the two nations.



## NIA raids multiple locations, in five States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday searched multiple locations in five States in connection with a case relating to attempts at revival of the banned CPI (Maoist) outfit, according to an official statement. Extensive searches were conducted at the premises of suspects at two locations in Patiala and Sri Muktsar Sahib districts of Punjab, four locations in Manesar and Gurgaon districts of Haryana, two locations in New Delhi, and one location each in Patna district of Bihar and Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh, it said. The suspects whose premises were searched were believed to be involved in propagating the ideology of CPI (Maoist) and the revival of its northern regional bureau wing through various frontal organisations. The searches

led to the seizure of digital devices, including mobile phones, pen drives/hard disks, laptops and memory cards, SIM cards and other incriminating documents related to naxalism, said the statement issued by the NIA. The searches were conducted in a case that relates to attempts by CPI (Maoist) leaders, cadres, sympathisers and over-ground workers (OGWs) to reenergise the outfit's decrepit influence in the NRB region, comprising Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. The NIA's investigations have revealed that long-time associates and other OGWs of the outfit were being provided funds from the eastern regional bureau, especially from Jharkhand, to recruit cadres and raise the front organisation in the northern states, the statement said.

## Be mindful of public comments, MEA tells Bangladesh officials

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has lodged a strong protest with Dhaka over certain controversial comments by a key aide of Bangladesh's interim government Mahfuj Alam. In a now-deleted Facebook post, Alam said India should recognise the uprising that forced the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign. In a related issue, Lok Sabha was informed that a total of 2,200 cases of violence against Hindus and other minorities have been reported in Bangladesh this year till December 8, and India's expectation is Dhaka will take necessary measures to ensure their safety, the government said on Friday. As regards controversial comments, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said "We have registered our strong protest on this issue with the Bangladesh side. We understand that the post being referred to has reportedly been taken down. We would like to remind all concerned to be mindful of their public comments." He said "While India has repeatedly signalled interest in fostering relations with the



File photo: PTI

people and the interim government of Bangladesh, such comments underline the need for responsibility in public articulation." New Delhi on Thursday expressed concern at incidents of violence targeting Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh and said the interim government in Dhaka has the primary responsibility of protecting their life and liberty. Minister of state for external affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh, made the comments in Rajya Sabha less than a fortnight after foreign secretary Vikram Misri visited Bangladesh and conveyed India's concerns on the issue to members of the caretaker administration against minorities, Singh said. "India's concerns regarding the need to ensure the safety

and protection of Hindus and all other minority communities in Bangladesh have been conveyed and reiterated to the authorities of the interim government of Bangladesh on various occasions, including at the highest level," he added. In a related issue, Rajya Sabha was informed that a total of 2,200 cases of violence against Hindus and other minorities have been reported in Bangladesh this year till December 8, and India's expectation is Dhaka will take necessary measures to ensure their safety, the government said on Friday. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh gave the information in a written response to a query in Rajya Sabha, citing data from minority and human rights organisations.

## Three-day state mourning for Om Prakash Chautala

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Om Prakash Chautala, a prominent Jat leader and former Haryana Chief minister whose career was marked by dizzying highs and rock bottoms, including stints in jail, died on Friday. He was 89. A party spokesperson said Chautala had hiccups in the morning and collapsed in his house. He was rushed to a hospital, where he died. The eldest son of former deputy prime minister Devi Lal, the five-time chief minister headed the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), a party founded by his father. Tributes for Chautala poured in from across the political spectrum, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing anguish at his passing and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Sukhbir Singh Badal describing it as a "huge personal loss". The Haryana government declared a three-day state mourning from Friday. It has also declared Saturday, when his funeral will be held, as a public holiday. "He (Chautala) was active in the state politics for many years and strove constantly to advance the work of Devi Lal," Modi said. Although Chautala, born into an influential political family on January 1, 1935, in Chautala



Photo: PTI

village, could never match the stature of his father who was known as a messiah of farmers, he was known for his sharp political acumen and wit despite not being well-educated. While serving his 10-year prison term, Chautala was released from Delhi's Tihar jail in July 2021. He was already out on parole at the time. He was sent to Tihar jail again in May 2022 after being awarded a four-year sentence in a disproportionate assets case. At 87, he became the oldest inmate. In August 2002, Delhi High Court suspended the sentence.

## Heavy snowfall, shabdeg, and kangris... 'Chillai Kalan', begins in J and K

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the persistent dry and cold weather, the Jammu and Kashmir region is ready to face the 40-day-long harshest winter period of 'Chillai Kalan', beginning from the intervening night of December 20 and December 21. This period of Chillai Kalan, which begins with Winter Solstice spans from December 21 to January 31, marks the apex of Kashmir's severe winter. Chillai Kalan is also known as 'Shahenshah-e-zamistan.' Chilla-i Kalan is a Persian term which means "major cold" while the intense cold conditions are known as 'Jaada' in North and East India. During Chilai Kalan, the chilling cold increases further, while heavy snowfall and temperatures well below freezing point cause water

bodies and even water taps in homes to freeze. In this 40-day period, nights are chilly and day temperatures are in single digits. The winter games at the skiing resort of Gulmarg are held during this period. During Chillai Kalan, many Kashmiri families prepare 'Shabdeg' on the first day of 'Chillai Kalan'. Meat is slow cooked with turnips and spices in an earthen vessel during the night intervening December 20-21, to mark the onset of the coldest phase of the season. During its 40 days, the Chillai Kalan leaves no chance to put people through the most difficult of hardships. Generally, however, due to the icy winds in Chillai Kalan, the entire valley is gripped by severe cold. The ongoing cold wave is said to reach its peak with



Kashmir's mountains covered in snow for weeks, and the famous Dal Lake also reaching freezing point until the end of January.

Kashmir's winter pans out in three stages starting with a 40-day intense period from December 21 (locally called Chillai Kalan)

followed by 20 more days which are less intense (Chillai Khurd) and then 10 days of mild cold (Chillai Bache). Chillai-Kalan is the 40-day period of harsh winter in Kashmir that begins December 21 and ends on January 31. According to meteorological reports, this year's Chillai Kalan will begin with a cold wave, and temperatures are expected to dip significantly across the Kashmir Valley. The Meteorological Department has also predicted that there could be light to moderate snowfall in the coming days, especially in the higher reaches of the valley. The plains are likely to experience a drop in temperature, which may cause frost. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus

6.2 degrees Celsius, slightly down from minus 6 degrees Celsius the previous night. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), in South Kashmir, Pahalgam, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, registered a low of minus 8.2 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 6.8 degrees Celsius. It said Gulmarg, a tourist spot popular for skiing, logged a minimum of minus six degrees Celsius, a degree down from the previous night. A hamlet on the outskirts of Pampore town, Konibal, was the coldest weather station in the valley as the minimum settled at the low of minus 9.2 degrees Celsius, the office said.











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PAPER WITH PASSION

## An abhorable practice

The SC's observation on witchcraft practices is a timely reminder that women still face humiliation under various pretexts

In a landmark observation, the Supreme Court of India recently described the victimisation of women under accusations of witchcraft as a 'blot on the constitutional spirit.' The case before the apex court, involving egregious acts of abuse and violence against women in Bihar's Champaran district, has brought the spotlight on the persistent issue of witch-hunting in the country. The court's remarks emphasise the urgent need to eradicate such practices that undermine the dignity, equality and human rights enshrined in the Constitution of India. The bench, comprising Justices CT Ravikumar and Sanjay Karol, was dealing with a petition concerning a disturbing incident that occurred in early 2020. Women were publicly assaulted, disrobed, and accused of witchcraft. One of the accused individuals, Lakshmi Devi, along with others, faced charges for these heinous acts. Reportedly there was police apathy towards the victim. The apex court expressed its shock and dismay at the brutality of the acts and the apparent indifference of the legal machinery.



Such incidents, the court observed, are a direct affront to the dignity and rights of women, particularly in rural areas where equality remains a distant goal. The court highlighted the role of superstition, patriarchy, and social control in perpetuating witch-hunting practices. It called for the eradication of these regressive beliefs, which often target vulnerable women such as widows and the elderly. Indeed, such practices stand in stark opposition to the scientific temper mandated by the Constitution. Unfortunately these are not isolated cases but are rampant in rural India. The Constitution of India guarantees justice, liberty, equality and dignity for all citizens. Practices like witch-hunting undermine these principles and perpetuate a culture of discrimination and violence against women. What is more shocking is the apathy of the government in such cases who are equal partners in crime. The court reiterated that the responsibility of investigating and adjudicating authorities is heightened in cases involving violations of human dignity. The Supreme Court also criticised the state for not challenging the High Court's non-speaking order, which granted a stay on the proceedings. The bench's observations underscore the need for a multi-pronged approach to address witch-hunting. This includes strengthening laws to explicitly criminalise witch-hunting and ensuring stringent punishment for perpetrators. Besides, promoting scientific temper and educating communities about the illegality and immorality of witch-hunting. But most important is establishing support mechanisms for survivors, including legal aid, rehabilitation, and psychological counseling. The government machinery also need to be sensitised in dealing with such cases. The Supreme Court's remarks serve as a clarion call to address the deep-seated issues of superstition and patriarchy that enable witch-hunting. The victimisation of women under such baseless allegations is not merely a social evil but a constitutional failure.

### PICTALK



Elephants inside an enclosure at Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata

PTI

## The key to tackling food security and climate change

Climate-Smart Agriculture emerges as a transformative solution, combining sustainable practices with strategies to mitigate emissions and secure food systems

The demand for food is steadily increasing due to dietary changes and the growing global population. Currently, approximately 690 million people or 8.9 per cent of the world's population suffer from hunger. By 2050, the world will need to produce nearly 70 per cent more food to sustain an estimated 9 billion people, which makes food security an increasingly critical challenge. Climate change further exacerbates this problem, intensifying the environmental impacts of food production. Agriculture, while essential, is also a major contributor to the climate crisis, generating between 19 per cent and 29 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Economic losses from natural disasters are also rising globally, and the agriculture sector is particularly vulnerable. According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), disaster-affected nations experienced direct economic losses of \$2,908 billion between 1998 and 2017, with climate-related calamities accounting for 77 per cent of these losses. In recent years, the impacts



of climate change on agriculture have become more pronounced. For example, India is projected to experience up to a 9 per cent reduction in key crop yields nationwide between 2010 and 2039 due to climate change. Regional impacts could be even more severe, with potential losses of up to 35 per cent for rice, 20 per cent for wheat, 50 per cent for sorghum, 13 per cent for barley, and 60 per cent for maize. Climate change adversely affects food production and supply chains while accelerating the degradation of already fragile ecosystems. To counter these challenges, it is imperative to adopt Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices, which aim to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture while sustainably enhancing productivity and income. CSA integrates sustainable agri-

cultural practices and rural development goals, contributing to broader objectives like better environmental management and hunger reduction, as outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). **Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices in India:** India is actively adopting Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices to combat climate change's impact on agriculture. These include conservation agriculture techniques like zero-tillage to boost yields and reduce emissions, agroforestry to enhance biodiversity and resilience, and precision farming technologies such as GPS and GIS to optimise resources. Water management strategies like drip irrigation improve efficiency, while efficient livestock management boosts revenue and product quality. Solar power is increasingly used for irrigation, reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Practices such as crop diversification, rotation with legumes, and the cultivation of climate-resilient varieties enhance sustainability, while integrated pest management and crop residue management minimise chemical use and pollution, ensuring

long-term agricultural and environmental health. **Challenges to Climate-Smart Agriculture in India:** Despite its numerous benefits, the adoption of CSA practices in India faces several challenges. **Climate Variability:** Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and diminishing water resources threaten to lower crop productivity by 10-40 per cent by the end of the century. **Rising sea levels, cyclones, and storm surges** endanger agricultural lands, especially in regions like the Sundarbans, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. **High Costs:** Implementing CSA methods often involves significant financial investment, which can deter farmers. **Policy and Regulatory Barriers:** Inadequate policies and restrictive regulations hinder widespread CSA adoption. The adoption of climate-smart agriculture is no longer optional but an urgent necessity.

(The writer is Assistant Professor Agronomy, College of Agriculture & Environmental Technology, Surajmal University, Kichha, Uttarakhand; views are personal)



HIMANSHU VERMA

How the Places of Worship Act (1991) is being dealt with at present is due to many not being aware of how and why the Act came about. Evidently, the then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao (1991-96) in his heart of hearts was a staunch Hindu. He was anxious to contribute to help solving the then existing—or festering—problem at Ayodhya. Most developments that took place at the Janmasthan on December 6, 1992, spoke of Rao's silent participation in the cause of Ram Lalla.

The most clinching evidence of the Prime Minister's contribution was indicated by the facts when I left Ayodhya on that momentous day. It was 5:45 pm; all the three domes of the Babri edifice had been brought down. All the ten walls were still standing and so was the rest of the structure. Soon after we sat in our car to proceed to Lucknow, my companions and I heard on the transistor radio that the Uttar Pradesh government of then chief minister Kalyan Singh had been dismissed by the Centre, and Governor's rule imposed. That meant whatever was done thereafter was the handiwork directed by someone at the Centre. At the Centre, even the then-home secretary Madhav Godbole is on record saying that he did not know a thing about what was happening and had learnt about it only through the radio and television.

This author has not met nor knows anyone who has claimed that he has seen even a photograph of the edifice walls without their domes. At 10 pm that very night, PM Narasimha Rao addressed the nation on television, wherein he assured the people of India that he would rebuild the Babri Masjid as soon as possible. This gave the impression that the entire edifice had been destroyed. The walls were tall and thick as was the style of the architecture of the 16th century. The chabutara around the walls was also solid and tall, apart from being large. Even the domes, which had been the most vulnerable part of the structure,



took selected men of the Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department (PWD) to bring them down, an endeavour that began in the morning and lasted till 4:30 pm when the last dome fell. I came to know that they were men of the PWD, from two of the five photographers whose cameras had been smashed and they beaten up and left with bleeding faces. The photographers thought they were obliging the karsevaks, whereas for government servants, being photographed would have cost them their jobs.

A lady IPS officer who was second-in-command at Ayodhya on that day, in answer to my query told me later that the police had instructions not to intervene unless lives were in danger; presumably, not property. She assured me that there were 15,000 paramilitary personnel in readiness at Faizabad, just 4 km away. Incidentally, she added there were consummate numbers of bulldozers in the nearby vicinity, along with their operators. Evidently, all these preparations were deployed to see the end of the Babri edifice over the next 60 hours. Indeed, an enormous thing to accomplish, in such a short time. All this happened under Central rule. To restate, the Kalyan Singh government was nowhere in power after 5:45



EVIDENTLY, THESE AFGHANS HAD BROUGHT SOME ARCHITECTS WITH THEM, WHO BUILT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF BUILDINGS, INCLUDING MOSQUES

pm on December 6. It is only after being aware of these facts can one appreciate the need for the Places of Worship Act. PM Rao, being a Congressman, had to preserve his 'secular' image.

The abovementioned legislation implies how much the Rao government cared to protect the character of every place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. Ayodhya had to be the exception as it was then an object of litigation in the Supreme Court of India. Normally, while legislating, it is taken for granted that anything sub judice has its own rules. But Ayodhya was clearly brought under a provision of being excluded from the ambit of the Act, presumably because it was sub judice. Nevertheless, it was specifically kept out; in fact, it was a separate clause if the Act. Consequently, when being dealt with in the courts, never was Ayodhya, particularly the Janmasthan, mentioned even once in the context of the Places of Act.

The thrust of this submission is that this act need not be taken seriously. What this statement means is that a legitimate difference must be made between genuine places of worship and those edifices or structures that are the outcome of dacoity. There are edifices that were either directly con-

verted from temples to mosques like the Adhai Din Ka Jhopda, about a furlong away from Ajmer Sharif. Three temples were confined into one within 60 hours, or two-and-a-half days, so that the invader Mohammad Ghori would be able to pray there on his return from the decisive Second Battle of Tarain in 1192 AD.

There was no time to erase the Hindu structure. The pristine design has survived till this day. There are many such examples until the Lodi Dynasty conquered north India. Evidently, these Afghans had brought some architects with them, who built a significant number of buildings, including mosques.

How can the courts refuse to hear and try a case when someone petitions against daylight dacoity of a temple, which is either converted immediately like the one described above in Ajmer, or brought down and rebuilt like the Jama Masjid in Ahmedabad? Surely, dacoities can't be condoned out of hand? On the other hand, genuine cases of mosques having become victims of Hindu mischief can be kept out of the courts under the Places of Worship Act.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### OPPOSITION TARGETS AMIT SHAH

Madam — The Opposition claimed Home Minister Amit Shah had insulted B.R. Ambedkar. Accusing the Congress Party of opportunism, Shah charged then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru with belittling Ambedkar, asserting that his resignation from the Cabinet would have no effect on the government. Shah also pointed out that when Ambedkar contested a Lok Sabha by-election in Bombay, the Congress not only fielded a candidate against him but Nehru personally campaigned to ensure Ambedkar's defeat.

Amit Shah hammered home the point about Congress singing paeans to Ambedkar only after it suffered multiple drubbings in elections, remarking the party now opportunistically chanting, "Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar... itna naam Bhagwan ka lete toh janmo tak swarg mil jata." The Opposition seized upon this admittedly poorly framed sentence to accuse Shah of insulting Ambedkar. Of course, this interpretation was far from the truth. Nevertheless, Shah's clumsy construction provided the Opposition with an opportunity to embarrass him. Shah's response during Tuesday's debate was a trenchant critique of the Congress Party. This frontal assault left Congress members squirming, with only feeble attempts to counter Shah's barbs. The Congress's lip service to Ambedkar continues to find few takers.

N Sadasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

#### DEBATE ON SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS

Madam — The proposal of holding simultaneous elections is fraught with a lack of clarity in its implementation and practicality for a country as vast and diverse as its expanse. The proposal has several loopholes, like midterm polls and the President's rule, and there is a lack of consideration for regional parties as well. Primarily, the proposal fails to address how precisely the central government plans to hold simultaneous elec-

## Revamp education system



The article 'From Kothari to NEP' presents a good analysis. No doubt, there is a conscious attempt made to undermine Indian education with long-term planning to subjugate the youth to be religiously oriented instead of scientifically and technologically excellent sections. The NEP has no provision to improve the standard of education and make it globally competitive. Still, the cream churned out migrants to countries abroad in search of fabulous pack-

ages and incentivised talent recognition. Medical colleges are growing in number, but the standard suffers due to insufficient expert teaching professionals, and focus has shifted to pecuniary aspects rather than imparting knowledge. Privatisation of education has its toll in terms of knowledge and employability, besides denying the aspiring poor its accessibility. The government coming up with programmes to part with skills to graduated youth is a clear example of this fact. The avaricious private players are producing marks without knowledge and degrees without employable skills. Astrology is a subject that could be learnt by anyone at any time and anywhere but need not be a part of the curriculum in university. Therefore, there is a dire need to study the whole system and make education an objective one rather than a tool to hasten the process of communalisation.

A G Rajmohan | Rampur

tions for the nation's 96.88 crore voters at the same time, as such a gargantuan exercise will be practically challenging to execute considering India's demography. Also, conducting all the elections in the same year becomes a major federal issue because it would force current state legislatures to shorten or lengthen their terms to make the election dates coincide with the national deadline. The attempt to impose an artificial cycle of elections and restrict electoral choice compromises the spirit of democracy, which is a direct threat to the constitutional recognition of India as a democratic republic. A rushed and ill-conceived policy can produce unprecedented challenges to the polity of the nation.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

#### IMPOSE BAN ON FIRECRACKERS

Madam — In the recent verdict, the Supreme Court of India, instructed the Uttar Pradesh as well as the Haryana government to impose the blanket ban on the firecrackers in order to tackle the

menace of air pollution. Today, depleting air quality is among the biggest troubles for the majority of Indian cities. But the million-dollar question is, does such a blanket ban really work to control the air pollution problem in the Indian cities? Often the things that are banned officially were black-marketed unofficially.

This is the actual reality of almost everything banned so far, be it crackers, liquor, or anything else. The extent of air pollution is so huge that even anti-pollution measures like Stage IV of GRAP failed to meet the very commitment. The behavioural changing approach is the need of the hour; more and more awareness has to be established in this regard along with more and more ecological improvement initiatives for tackling this very menace of depleting air quality. Let's us all walk the talk with respect to the circular economy and sustainable practices to improve nature in a real sense.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### UNLOCKING LIFE'S TRUE POTENTIAL

Embracing faith, cultivating humility and awakening spiritual awareness can elevate life



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

I am well and truly surprised that good people don't turn to God more actively than doing some rituals, going to a religious place participating in some festivals, etc. They probably are not realising what they are missing. God is ever so keen to take us in His team. He needs lots of us either to act as His 'nimitta' (instrument) as Arjuna was for a specific purpose or just be active mediums. Good people are best placed to be mediums for God's bounties to be given to other good people. They form the bulk of people, who support the working of the Creation. And they are amply rewarded for their 'karmas' (acts). For example, farmers are crucial for keeping humanity well-fed. Teachers are crucial for educating the masses.

Parents keep the Creation going by giving birth to children and then rearing them till they can be useful citizens. Doctors look after the health of people. Workers take the load of manual requirements of humanity. Good officers fulfil the administrative requirements of our societies. Priests enable us to be in contact with God. I can go on with policemen, shopkeepers, bankers, etc. They all benefit by doing so. Why aren't these actively pursuing a good connection with God? They can gain much more.

The first reason has to be a lack of faith due to widespread ignorance. The common man, even the educated class, is hopelessly unaware of all the benefits one can gain by taking shelter from God,



who owns everything. We get attracted to the richest, the most powerful, the very famous, etc., but ignore the real owner of all, omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent God. To top it all, God controls everything. The richest normally try to accumulate more, and many have some money to give to charity, but God has everything to give; you just have to become deserving.

The second reason has to be the overinflated ego of practically everyone. It is hard to accept that God is too big to comprehend and we are too small to accept. But that is reality. By closing our eyes like a duck we don't do ourselves any favour. And we remain sitting ducks against 'karmaphalas', which surely manifest and cause havoc in the lives of all, barring a few, who have taken shelter in God. The third reason is keeping poor company.

Who do we like to spend time with? Those who criticise one and all and who can tell jokes of the kind you know. Public image is another handicap. Only the losers turn to God. We don't have to; we will manage. Surely, this management ends in painful death only. Devotees of God and their lives on a high and are assured of better birth also. Then spiritual activities do not enthuse; they appear so childish. We would rather be grown-ups and be subservient to fellow beings, who are likely to exploit us as much as possible. So we don't get started and lose out.

This article is an open invitation to fence sitters if they chance to read it. I will cite a few amazing benefits if one does that. There will be great cleaning of the self both internally and externally. Such are the powers of spiritual activities. One will become dutiful and most likely begin to live by dharma. One will not limit oneself just to knowing spiritual truths but will also implement them in life. If a painter knows how to paint and does not paint, what is he or she likely to gain? The Creation has been designed to smoothen the lives of devotees.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

# Philippines: The broken promise of democracy



NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

### The resurgence of the Marcoses, the entrenchment of the Aquinos, and the dominance of families like the Dutertes show the enduring grip of oligarchy



The 1987 Philippine Constitution, crafted in the aftermath of the 1986 People Power Revolution, was supposed to mark the dawn of a new democratic era. The ousting of Ferdinand Marcos Sr., after decades of corruption, repression, and dynastic rule, was a victory for the Filipino people, or so they were told. Yet, the Constitution, supposedly a tool for dismantling the oppressive old order, contains a glaring, unimplemented clause: Article II, Section 26, which bans political dynasties. Nearly four decades later, this promise remains a cruel joke, the prohibition nothing more than a symbol of a nation shackled by its feudal past. Political dynasties thrive unabated, and the Philippines remains trapped in a cycle of oligarchy, where power is passed down like a family heirloom, not earned through democratic means. The rise of Corazon Aquino, the "hero" of People Power, has proven to be a double-edged sword.

While she restored democracy in name, she failed to eradicate the dynastic forces that had long plagued the country. Instead of dismantling the Marcos empire and the dynasties that thrived in its wake, Aquino's presidency paved the way for a new set of ruling families to stake their claim on the throne. The irony is staggering: Aquino, the symbol of resistance to Marcos, was unable to disarm the very forces that helped prop up the dictatorship. Her administration's failure to enact meaningful reform paved the way for the Marcos family's return to power, with Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s rise in 2022 exposing the unyielding grip of dynastic politics, illuminating the eternal truth behind the words of José Rizal, a true revolutionary executed by the Spanish in Manila: "The Filipino is not a slave of the Spanish Government. He is a slave of his own people." The Marcoses, who plundered billions from the nation's coffers, are not the only ones to have manipulated the system to their advantage.

Under Cory Aquino, the promise of land reform was shattered, epitomised by the Mendiola Massacre of 1987, where farmers demanding land reform were gunned down. The Aquino family, despite their image as the champions of democracy, have blood on their hands, betraying the very

people they claim to defend. The hypocrisy of the political elite is staggering, with families like the Marcoses and the Aquinos using their histories of violence and corruption as stepping stones to further entrench their power. But the Aquino-Marcos rivalry is only the tip of the iceberg. In Mindanao, the Duterte family's hold on power predates Rodrigo Duterte's presidency, with a history of death squad killings and iron-fisted rule. As mayor of Davao City, Duterte ruled with an iron fist, silencing dissent and using extrajudicial executions to rid the streets of perceived enemies.

His presidency, marked by a brutal war on drugs that left thousands dead, further entrenched the dynastic system, where political power is synonymous with violence and impunity. Duterte's rise to the highest office in the land was not a victory for the people, but for a political family that used populist rhetoric to cloak its real agenda: maintaining a stranglehold on power. The Macapagal-Arroyo family, meanwhile, turned corruption into an art form. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency was marred by scandal after scandal—from the "Hello Garci" election fraud to the NBN-ZTE broadband deal, which saw billions in kickbacks siphoned off to the ruling elite. Despite the overwhelming evidence of corruption, she escaped any lasting accountability, a reflection of the Philippines' toxic political culture where the powerful are above the law.

Like so many others, she found ways to use the machinery of the state to protect her interests. The brutality of the Philippines' political system is not just figurative. The 2009 Maguindanao Massacre, orchestrated by the Ampatuan clan, remains the deadliest attack on journalists in history. Fifty-eight people, including 32 journalists,

were slaughtered in cold blood in a bid to eliminate electoral competition.

And yet, despite the horrific nature of the crime, justice has been slow and incomplete, as political dynasties use their influence to shield themselves from the consequences of their actions. In regions like Cebu and Ilocos Norte, political dynasties such as the Osmeñas, Garcias, and Fariñases manipulate elections and use their wealth to maintain control, treating public office as their domain. This cycle of violence and impunity, where the ruling class prioritises their interests, extends to the economic realm, with families like the villagers growing their wealth through political power. The system persists due to cultural deference to family authority, weak institutions, and pervasive poverty, with voters often coerced into supporting the very dynasties that sustain their suffering.

Foreign powers, particularly the United States, have long been complicit in this system. During the Marcos era, the US provided crucial support to a regime known for its human rights abuses, all in the name of anti-communism. This foreign patronage emboldened the Marcoses and set a dangerous precedent for other dynasties, who continued to seek validation and support from foreign powers. The interplay between domestic power struggles and international interests further deepens the fractures within the Philippines, exacerbating the country's internal divisions.

The Philippines' educational system, which fails to foster critical thinking or civic engagement, ensures that the cycle of dynastic rule will continue. Schools produce citizens ill-equipped to challenge the status quo, while the media, often co-opted by powerful families, serves to protect the interests of the elite. Social media, too, has become a tool for dynasties to spread propaganda, rehabilitate their tarnished images,

and silence critics.

The current political spectacle centred around Vice President Sara Duterte's public threats against President Marcos, is a stark reminder of how fragile the Philippines' democracy truly is. The alliance between the Marcoses and the Dutertes, forged during the 2022 election, is now on the brink of collapse. What once seemed like a partnership between the North and south's ruling classes has devolved into a bitter feud, exposing the cracks in a political system built on corruption, nepotism, and violence.

This is not a battle for the people's interests, but a struggle for control between two families, each vying for supremacy in a system that has failed its citizens. This feud is not just political—it has geopolitical ramifications. Marcos' pivot towards the US and his opposition to China's claims in the South China Sea have reignited regional tensions, while Duterte's pro-China stance during his presidency deepened divides within the Filipino elite.

This divergence in foreign policy has intensified the rift between the Marcos and Duterte families, as they seek to align themselves with opposing global powers. The Philippines, caught between these imperial rivalries, faces not only internal political decay but external pressures that threaten to destabilise the nation further. As the midterm elections approach, this dynastic battle threatens to unravel whatever semblance of governance remains. Marcos seeks to consolidate power, while Sara Duterte faces the looming threat of impeachment. Yet, the Duterte family's influence, particularly in Mindanao, ensures that this battle will not stay within the confines of parliament. The streets could erupt, worsening societal divides.

(The writer is a journalist and a policy analyst; views expressed are personal)



THE IRONY IS STAGGERING: AQUINO, THE SYMBOL OF RESISTANCE TO MARCOS, WAS UNABLE TO DISARM THE VERY FORCES THAT HELPED PROP UP THE DICTATORSHIP. HER ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE TO ENACT MEANINGFUL REFORM PAVED THE WAY FOR THE MARCOS FAMILY'S RETURN TO POWER

# Patent risks: Key strategies for businesses amid rising litigation costs

Businesses today must adopt proactive strategies like Freedom-to-Operate searches and patent liability insurance to mitigate risks and protect their innovations

In November 2024, a US jury ruled in favour of Netlist, a company specialising in computer memory and storage solutions, ordering Samsung to pay \$118 million in damages for willfully infringing Netlist's patented technology. This follows an earlier verdict in April 2024, where another jury found Samsung guilty of similar patent infringements, awarding \$303 million to Netlist. Together, these penalties amount to \$421 million—an extraordinary sum that could destabilise even the most established organisations. In India, the Delhi High Court recently delivered a landmark judgment favoring the plaintiff, Antenna Inc., in a patent infringement case against Mobi Antenna Technologies.



AMIT SINGH

The court issued a permanent injunction against the defendant and ordered them to pay damages of USD 26.04 million (INR 216 crores) to compensate for the plaintiff's loss of profits due to the infringement. **Protecting Intellectual Property:** A recent American survey highlights the substantial financial commitment of research-based organisations in the pharmaceutical sector. The annual R&D budget in

this industry often runs into hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars. The cost of developing a new drug ranges from \$314 million to \$4.46 billion, depending on the therapeutic area and assumptions used in data modeling. These figures emphasise the immense investments required in R&D, making intellectual property (IP) protection and preemptive strategies essential. In contrast, R&D expenditures in non-pharmaceutical sectors are generally lower. However, extensive patenting is increasingly common, posing risks for companies introducing new processes or products without adequate precautions. A company might unknowingly infringe on a competitor's patent, leading to unforeseen and costly litigation.

Patent disputes can result in significant delays, financial losses, and reputational damage, even when unintentional. **Escalating Costs of Patent Litigation:** The median cost of litigating a patent lawsuit through trial ranges from \$600,000 for cases with less than \$1 million at stake to \$3.625 million for cases involving over \$25 million. Similar trends are observed in India, where litigation and settlement costs are substantial. Sometimes, defendants find themselves embroiled in patent litigation due to unintentional or inadvertent infringement. In such cases, the defendants are essentially victims, underscoring the need for safeguards to prevent unnecessary legal disputes. Tools to Mitigate Patent

Infringement Risks: **Patent Liability Insurance** One effective safeguard against the financial risks of unintended patent infringement is patent liability insurance. This insurance, provided by specialised firms, helps cover legal expenses and damages arising from unintentional infringement. While popular in several countries, its adoption is



steadily growing in India. **Freedom-to-Operate (FTO)** Another cost-effective tool to minimise patent infringement risks is a Freedom-to-Operate (FTO) search. This process evaluates whether a new product or process infringes on existing patents, enabling informed business decisions and reducing the likelihood of legal disputes. Many companies conduct FTO searches before initiating new R&D projects to mitigate financial and reputational risks. An FTO search involves analysing granted and pending patents to form a techno-legal opinion on whether a product, process, or service infringes existing IP rights. These searches can be conducted using free databases provided by intellectual property offices,

with directories available on the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) website. **When Patents Block Freedom to Operate** If an FTO search reveals conflicting patents, companies have several options: 1. Licensing Agreements: Companies can negotiate licensing or purchase patent rights to gain access to the necessary technology. 2. Patent Pools: Collaborative agreements among companies in the same technological field allow shared access to patents, resolving disputes and controlling costs, especially for essential products like medicines. 3. Designing Around: Companies can modify existing processes or products to avoid infringement.

**Steps to Minimise Litigation Risks:** Regardless of the strategy chosen, it is crucial for companies to address patent infringement risks early in the research and commercialization process. Proactive measures such as in-licensing, cross-licensing, patent pooling, and designing around can help avoid future disputes. A systematic FTO search before launching a new product is indispensable for minimizing infringement risks. While an FTO search cannot completely eliminate the possibility of litigation due to limitations in patent databases and search expertise, it significantly reduces potential threats. (The writer is deputy controller of patents and designs, Kolkata.; views are personal)

# Pakistan's ballistic missile programme emerging threat to US: White House

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Asserting that Pakistan developing sophisticated missile technology will give it the capability to strike targets well beyond South Asia, including in the US, a top White House official said on Thursday that the Asian country's actions are an emerging threat to the United States. Such a remark by the top White House official comes a day after the US slapped sanctions on four Pakistani entities, including the state-owned flagship aerospace and defence agency — National Development Complex (NDC) — on charges of them contributing to Pakistan's ballistic-missile programme. The other three entities are Akhtar and Sons Private Limited, Affiliates International and Rockside Enterprise. All three are based in Karachi. Based in Islamabad, the NDC is responsible for the ballistic-missile programme. It has worked to acquire items to advance Pakistan's long-range ballistic missile programme. "As a result, the (Joe) Biden

administration has implemented a series of steps to contend with further development of long-range missile systems. Over the last year, we have issued three rounds of sanctions against non-Pakistani entities that have provided support to Pakistan's ballistic-missile programme," Principal Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer told a think-tank here. "And yesterday, we issued sanctions directly against Pakistan's state-owned National Development Complex, which the United States assesses is involved in the development and production of Pakistan's long-range ballistic missiles, the first time we have sanctioned a Pakistani state-owned enterprise tied to missile development," he said. "Simply put, we are going to keep the pressure on Pakistan regarding its long-range missile programme, even as we also continue to seek diplomatic resolutions to address our concerns," Finer said in his remarks at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a top American think-tank. In his remarks, Finer said

recently, Pakistan has developed increasingly sophisticated missile technology, from long-range ballistic missile systems to equipment that would enable the testing of significantly larger rocket motors. "If these trend lines continue, Pakistan will have the capability to strike targets well beyond South Asia, including in the United States, raising real questions about Pakistan's intentions," he said. The list of countries that possess both nuclear weapons and the missile capability to directly reach the US homeland is very small, and they tend to be adversarial towards the United States — Russia, North Korea and China — Finer observed. "So candidly, it is hard for us to see Pakistan's actions as anything other than an emerging threat to the United States. Now, leaders across our administration, myself included, have raised these concerns repeatedly with senior Pakistani officials," he said. "We have been a longtime partner with Pakistan on development, on counter-terrorism and other security issues,

including quite sensitive issues. We have provided support to Islamabad during difficult times and we continue to desire a cooperative relationship in these areas of shared interest," Finer added. "That makes us question even more why Pakistan will be motivated to develop a capability that could be used against us. Unfortunately, it is our sense that Pakistan has failed to take these concerns and, frankly, the concerns of others in the international community seriously and continues to advance these capabilities," he said. "Just looking at a map and looking at ranges, we believe that this is fundamentally focused on us," Finer said in response to a question. "I think that is an inescapable conclusion based on the information that we have got and that is why this is of such great concern because the United States cannot, will not simply sit back and watch the development of this capability that we believe could pose a threat ultimately down the road," Finer said.

AP ■ KYIV

# Russian missiles target Kyiv after Ukraine fires US-made missiles across the border

A Russian ballistic missile attack on Ukraine's capital Kyiv early Friday killed at least one person and injured nine others, officials said. Moscow claimed it was in response to a Ukrainian strike on Russian soil using American-made weapons. At least three loud blasts were heard in Kyiv shortly before sunrise. Ukraine's air force said it intercepted five Iskander short-range ballistic missiles fired at the city. The attack knocked out heating to 630 residential buildings, 16 medical facilities, and 30 schools and kindergartens, the city administration said, and falling missile debris caused damage and sparked fires in three districts. "We ask citizens to immediately respond to reports of ballistic attack threats, because there is very little time to find shelter," the air force said. During the almost three years since the war began, Russia has regularly bombarded civilian areas of Ukraine, often in an attempt to cripple the power grid and unnerve Ukrainians. Meanwhile Ukraine, struggling to hold back Russia's bigger army on the front line, has attempted to strike Russian infrastructure supporting the country's war effort. The Russian Ministry of Defence said the strike was in response to a Ukrainian missile attack on Russia's Rostov border region two days earlier. That attack used six American-made Army Tactical Missile System, known as ATACMS, missiles and four Storm Shadow air-launched missiles provided by the United Kingdom, it said. That day, Ukraine claimed to



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters work on the site of a damaged building after a Russian missile attack in Kyiv, Ukraine on Friday. AP/PTI

have targeted a Rostov oil refinery as part of its campaign to strike Russian infrastructure supporting the country's war effort. The use of Western-supplied weapons to strike Russia has angered the Kremlin. Ukraine fired several American-supplied longer-range missiles into Russia for the first time on November 19 after Washington eased restrictions on their use. That development prompted Russia to use a new hypersonic

missile, called Oreshnik, for the first time. President Vladimir Putin suggested the missile could be used to target government buildings in Kyiv, though there have been no reports of an Oreshnik being used for a second time. Answering the Ukrainian attack on Rostov on Wednesday, the Defence Ministry said it carried out a group strike with "high-precision, long-range weapons" on the command centre of Ukraine's military intelligence

agency and another location where it said Ukraine's Neptune missile systems are designed and produced. The attack also targeted Ukrainian ground-based cruise missile systems and US-made Patriot air defence systems, the Defence Ministry said. "The objectives of the strike have been achieved. All objects are hit," the defence ministry said in a Telegram post. Its claims could not immediately be verified.

# India-US defence relationship advancing in terrific, exciting ways: Pentagon

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The defence relationship between India and the US is accelerating and advancing in terrific and exciting ways, the Pentagon has said amidst the transition from the Joe Biden administration to that of President-elect Donald Trump. "The US-India defence relationship stands on its own. It is accelerating and advancing in terrific and exciting ways, both as it relates to defence industrial base cooperation as well as operational cooperation across the services," Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, told

reporters at a news conference here. "It (the India-US defence ties) is a continuing growth area, even as the India-China relationship waxes and wanes," Ratner said in response to a question. India has been accorded the status of the Major Defence Partnership by the United States. Biden administration officials have described the defence ties as one of the key pillars of this relationship. In October, India concluded an agreement with the US for the procurement of 31 General Atomics MQ-9B (16 Sky Guardian and 15 Sea Guardian) remotely-piloted aircraft and their associated

equipment, which will enhance the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities of India's armed forces across all domains. India and the US concluded the Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) this year, enhancing the mutual supply of defence goods and services. During their meeting in September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Biden committed to advancing ongoing discussions on aligning their respective defence procurement systems to further enable the reciprocal supply of defence goods and services.

# 8 dead as speedboat carrying migrants capsizes

AP ■ ATHENS

A speedboat carrying migrants capsized Friday morning off the eastern Greek island of Rhodes, leaving eight dead, Greek authorities said. The coast guard said the incident occurred while the speedboat was carrying out "dangerous maneuvers" to try and evade a patrol vessel, causing migrants to fall into the sea. Eighteen of the migrants were rescued. Rescue workers on three coast guard vessels and a helicopter were working near the resort area of Afantou Beach in the northeast of the island. It was unclear whether other passengers were missing, authorities said. Eight of the survivors have been hospitalized, local officials said, with one of them in critical condition, according to state-run television. Rhodes, one of several large Greek islands located near the coast of Turkey, is on a busy illegal smuggling route in the eastern Mediterranean. At the main port of the island, police and ambulance workers held up sheets of gray tarp as the recovered bodies were carried into an ambulance. It was the second deadly incident involving migrants in the past week, as authorities in Athens brace for a spike in arrivals as a result of wars in the Middle East. Seven migrants were killed and dozens are believed to be missing after a boat partially sank south of the island of Crete over the weekend — one of four rescue operations during which more than 200 migrants were rescued. The search south of Crete around the tiny island of Gavdos was called off Wednesday.

# UN General Assembly asks court to say what Israel needs to provide in Gaza

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN General Assembly approved a resolution on Thursday asking the UN's highest court to state what Israel's obligations are in Gaza and the West Bank to provide humanitarian assistance essential for the survival of Palestinian civilians. The vote on the Norwegian-sponsored resolution seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice was 137-12, with 22 abstentions. The United States, Israel's closest ally, voted against the resolution. Resolutions in the 193-member

General Assembly are not legally binding, though they do reflect world opinion. It follows the ICJ's condemnation of Israel's rule over lands it captured 57 years ago. In a non-binding opinion in July, the court said Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territories is unlawful and called on Israel to end its occupation and halt settlement construction immediately. Thursday's resolution also follows Israeli laws passed in late October, which take effect in 90 days, that effectively ban the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, from operating in the

Palestinian territories. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has stressed that no other UN agency can take on the UNRWA's role and a UN spokesman reiterated on Thursday that under international law, as the occupying power, Israel would be responsible for fulfilling the basic needs of Palestinians if the UNRWA is banned. Norway's deputy foreign minister, Andreas Kravik, told reporters that the international community has a responsibility to react to tens of thousands of deaths in Gaza and virtually the entire population experiencing

acute hunger, and some near famine. He said many countries, the UN and its agencies, and aid organisations are ready to step up their humanitarian efforts but the problem is "there is a lack of access". Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon told the assembly before the vote that its members were debating "the same recycled nonsense, where all that matters is attacking Israel and challenge its right to protect its citizens". "This time the Palestinians are using a new tool in this diplomatic circus: the International Court of Justice," he said.

# Chinese national charged with acting as Beijing's agent in local California poll

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A Chinese national was arrested on Thursday on charges of acting as an illegal agent for Beijing when serving as the campaign manager for an unnamed politician elected to a city council in Southern California two years ago. The arrest of Yaoning "Mike" Sun, 64, came at a time of rising concerns that the Chinese government has cultivated a network of operatives to influence local elections in the US to install politicians who are friendly to Beijing and can help promote Chinese interests. According to a complaint filed on Tuesday in the US District Court for the Central District of California, Sun is accused of conspiring with Chen Jun, who was sentenced to 20 months last month for acting as an illegal agent of the Chinese government. Chen, 71, also a Chinese national, pleaded guilty in July to using Chinese money to

bribe federal agents to undermine the anti-Beijing spiritual group Falun Gong. The charge against Sun shows that Chen also conspired to interfere with local elections. It was not immediately clear if Sun had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf. Sun was instructed by Chen to write up a report in 2023 to recount to Chinese officials how they helped the local politician get elected, according to the affidavit. Subsequent writings between the two men described the city councilperson as a "new political star" and included a request for USD 80,000 to fund more pro-Beijing activities in the United States, according to the court documents. Chen asked Sun to list all the mainstream American politicians the city councilperson was familiar with and told Sun that it would be "very effective to elevate" the status of the councilperson in China. "This case is yet another example of a very disturbing trend:

the People's Republic of China is seeking to influence foreign and domestic policy in the United States," Martin Estrada, US attorney for the Central District of California, said in a call with reporters. "To do so, government officials in China are seeking to help get elected individuals who they see as being friendly to Chinese foreign policy." The councilperson is not named in court papers. Yaoning Sun is listed as a campaign treasurer for Arcadia city council candidate Eileen Wang on a campaign statement filing stamped in February 2022, according to records on the city's website. In filings later in 2022, another individual is listed as the treasurer, the records show. Wang ran for election to the city council in 2022 and won. She ran a tutoring services company in the city about 15 miles (24 kilometres) northeast of Los Angeles and has participated in numerous community groups, according to her biography on the city's website.

# Venezuelan opp member leaves Argentine diplomatic compound

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

One of the six members of Venezuela's political opposition who have been sheltering for nine months in the Argentine diplomatic compound in the capital, Caracas, abandoned the premises Thursday. Two people familiar with the situation at the facility confirmed to The Associated Press that Fernando Martinez left the

ambassador's residence and was home. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation. The conditions under which Martinez left the compound were not immediately clear. Since late November, the group has denounced the constant presence outside the residence of Venezuelan intelligence service agents and police. It has also accused the government of President Nicolas Maduro of

cutting electricity and water services. The government has denied the allegations. Those who remain at the Argentine ambassador's home include the campaign manager and communications director of opposition powerhouse Maria Corina Machado. The government of President Javier Milei allowed them into the compound in March after authorities loyal to the ruling

party issued warrants for their arrest, accusing them of promoting alleged acts of violence to destabilize the country. Martinez was involved in a parallel government that the opposition created after Maduro's widely considered sham reelection in 2018 and participated in negotiations between the opposition and the government. He was minister of communications and transportation in the 1990s.

# Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain laid to rest in San Francisco

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Zakir Hussain was laid to rest on Thursday at a San Francisco cemetery as renowned percussionist A Sivamani and other artists performed on their drums at a little distance away in a tribute to the tabla maestro. Hussain, one of the world's most accomplished percussionists, died at a San Francisco hospital on Monday due to complications arising from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a lung disease. He was 73. He was laid to rest at the Fernwood cemetery in San Francisco on Thursday. Hundreds of his admirers gathered at Hussain's funeral to pay their last respects. Sivamani and several other musicians played drums at a little distance away to pay him a tribute. Sivamani told PTI Video, "Rhythm is God, that is you

Zakir bhai. I learned a lot in our journey from 1982 till now. Every moment you are here with us in the rhythm. Every time I hit the rhythm, you are there. We love you Zakir Bhai. Have a lovely journey. Please give my pranam to all the masters." Hussain, the son of the legendary tabla player Alla Rakha, revolutionised the instrument, taking it beyond the limits of classical music to other forms, including jazz and Western classical. The celebrated musician, one of India's most well-known, received four Grammy Awards in his career spanning six decades, including three at the 66th Grammy Awards earlier this year. Hussain is survived by his wife Antonia Minnecola and daughters Anisa Qureshi and Isabella Qureshi. Hussain received the Padma Shri in 1988, the Padma

Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2023. In his career spanning six decades, the musician worked with several renowned international and Indian artists, but it was his 1973 musical project with English guitarist John McLaughlin, violinist L Shankar, and percussionist TH 'Vikku' Vinayakram that brought together Indian classical and elements of jazz in a fusion hitherto unknown. Sivamani after Hussain's death in a Facebook post said he would go to San Francisco to see him for the last time. "No Zakir Bhai, you cannot leave us like this. This is just unbelievable...I'm on the way to San Francisco. I want to see you... one last time...I want to hold your hands... my brother, my Guru... I'm devastated...life will never be the same again," Sivamani had said. Messages of condolence poured

in on social media as the news of Hussain's demise spread. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called him a true genius who revolutionised the world of Indian classical music. Grammy winner musician Ricky Kej remembered Hussain for his "immense humility, approachable nature". "One of the greatest musicians and personalities India has ever produced. Along with being the best himself, Zakirji was known for...being responsible for the careers of numerous musicians, who are now forces to reckon with themselves. He was a treasure trove of skill and knowledge and always shared and encouraged the entire music community through collaborations and his actions. His legacy will live on forever, and his influence will be felt for generations. He left us too soon," Kej had written on X after his demise.



Percussionist A Sivamani performs during the funeral of Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain at Fernwood Cemetery in San Francisco, US, on Thursday. PTI



# Turkiye, Russia engage in delicate manoeuvre over Syria after Assad's downfall

AP ■ MOSCOW

The rapid downfall of Syrian leader Bashar Assad has touched off a new round of delicate geopolitical manoeuvring between Russia's Vladimir Putin and Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

With the dust still settling from the stunning events in Damascus, the outcome for now seems to be favouring Ankara, which backed the victorious rebels, while Moscow suffered a bruising blow to its international clout.

"In the game of Czars vs. Sultans, this is Sultans 1 and Czars 0," said Senor Cagaptay, director of the Turkish Research Program at the Washington Institute. "Far from being allies, Turkey and Russia are competitors. And in this case, Turkey has outsmarted Russia."

The Assad regime's demise opens another chapter in the complex relationship between Putin and Erdogan, with wide-ranging implications not just for Syria but also for Ukraine and the two leaders' ties with Washington.

Russia and Turkey share economic and security interests — along with an intense rivalry. The personal relationship between Putin and Erdogan often sees them both praising each other, even as they jockey for political and economic gains.

"There are currently only two leaders left in the world — there is me and there is Vladimir Putin," Erdogan said recently, reflecting the respect for the Kremlin leader. Putin, in turn, has often praised Erdogan's political prowess.

**Conflicts and deals:** Russia and Turkey backed opposing sides in Syria's civil war that started in 2011, putting them on

a collision course. Tensions spiraled when a Turkish fighter jet shot down a Russian warplane near the Türkiye-Syria border in November 2015, soon after Moscow launched its air campaign to support Assad.

The Kremlin responded with sweeping economic sanctions that halted Turkish imports, drove Turkish companies from the lucrative Russian market and cut the flow of Russian tourists to Türkiye's resorts.

Faced with massive economic damage, Erdogan apologized months later. Soon after, Putin staunchly supported him when he faced an attempted military coup in July 2016, helping to warm ties quickly.

In 2018, Moscow and Ankara negotiated a ceasefire and de-escalation deal for the rebel-held Idlib province in northwestern Syria on the border with Türkiye and sought to anchor the offen-

violated agreement with follow-up deals in the next few years. But even as they cooperated on Syria, Moscow and Ankara also vied for influence in Libya, where Russia supported forces loyal to military commander Khalifa Hifter while Türkiye backed his Tripoli-based foes.

**S&T WORKS AT MALIGAON**

**E-Tender Notice No. 07 of 2024-25.** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. N-2024-25-07-Dy.** CSTE-NW. Name of work: S&T work in connection with Construction of additional 3 nos. Pit Lines with Cover Shed, 4 nos. Stabling Lines, 2 nos. of Automatic Washing Plant at New Guwahati Yard. **Tender Value: ₹21,26,39,314.54/- Earnest Money: ₹12,13,200/-** Date & Time of closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on 10-01-2025 & will be opened at 16.00 hrs. on 10-01-2025. The complete information about the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Dy. Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Network, Maligaon**

**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PARISHAD, BHITARWAR, DIST-GWALIOR**

**Second Call**  
**Notice Inviting e-Tenders**

**NIT No. 1858** Date: 19.12.2024

Online Lumpsum bids for the following works under "SBM (U) - 2.0" (Estimated on UADD ISSR (w.e.f - 02.08.2021) are invited from registered contractors and firm of repute fulfilling eligibility criteria

S. No.	Scope of the work	Probable amount of contract (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs)	Time of Completion
1.0	1- Interception and diversion of nallahs (Liquid Waste Management) with STP works project of Bhitwar town under SBM 2.0	604.54	302268	20,000	12 months including rainy season

1. All details relating to the Bid Document (s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the website. Interested Bidder can view the NIT on website [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) and [www.mpurban.gov.in](http://www.mpurban.gov.in).

2. The Bid can be purchased only online from 14:00 Hrs of 20.12.2024 to 17:30 Hrs. of 07.01.2024

Chief Municipal Officer  
Nagar Parishad Bhitwarwar

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHOPAL**

**Water Work Department**

Municipal Corporation Rest House, Shyamla Hills, Bhopal  
Ph No 0755-2701669

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**

Online tenders are being invited for the following works. The bidder can obtain detailed information and tender documents on website <http://mptenders.gov.in>

Corrigendum for this NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers. Corrigendum regarding correction can be seen on the website <http://mptenders.gov.in>

S. No.	NIT No.	Tender ID.	Details of Work	Estimated Cost (INR)	Earnest Money (EMD)	Bid Submission End Date
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1	15/Store/W.W.D./B/MC/2024-25 Second Call	2024 UAD 377858_2	Supply of Ferric Alum Grade-4 ISI Mark in loose slabs as per IS 299/2012 with up to date amendment including, loading, unloading, stacking, transportation and an Duties & Taxes up to different filter plants of Bhopal Water Works Dept.	1,93,60,000/-	96,800/-	01.01.2025
2	16/Store/W.W.D./B/MC/2024-25 First call	2024 UAD 389075_1	Supply of Liquid Chlorine in Tonners Under Store W.W.D.	21,66,700/-	16,250/-	16.01.2025
3	17/Store/W.W.D./B/MC/2024-25 First call	2024 UAD 389562_1	Supply of C.I., M.S. material and other repairing/ fabrication works on Rate contract basis under W.W.D.	1,50,00,000/-	75,000/-	20.01.2025

**Executive Engineer (WWD)**  
Municipal Corporation, Bhopal

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that of Mr. M. N. Sharma, S/o. Mr. M. N. Sharma, the owner of RESIDENTIAL FIRST FLOOR, (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) BUILT ON PROPERTY BEARING M.P. No. 828/73, AREA MEASURING 44.31 SQ. METRS. SITUATED AT ANAJ MANDI, RANI BHASI ROAD, BARABHUNDI, DELHI-110006. By virtue of Sale Deed Dated 19.12.2023, regd. as Doc. No. 2023/9117/2024, executed by Mr. Ajitlal Rain and the Original Salee Dated 25.05.2017, regd. as Doc. No. 5156, pertaining to the said property has been lost. FIR of the same has been registered with Delhi Police with I.S. No. 234273/2024, same to be financed by SMFG India Home Finance Company Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any change of interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Neeraj Singh (Advocate)  
F-18, Lotus Food Plaza, Vashishta Khanda, Indraprastha (East) Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110048

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My clients Sh. Balbir Singh S/O Sh. Bachan Singh and Mrs. Palvinder Kaur W/O Sh. Balbir Singh R/o F-337, Sudershan Park, Moti Nagar, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015

Sh. Prithal Singh S/O Sh. Balbir Singh and Mrs. Naman Preet Kaur D/O Sh. Charanjit Singh is very disturbed and anguished about continued misbehavior irresponsible conduct, out of control nature, of his son decides to give a public notice to disown his son, his wife and debar from all of Sh. Balbir Singh movable & immovable properties and sever all the relationship ties with his son and his wife including. My clients or their family members shall not be responsible for any acts or deeds done by them whatsoever.

PAWAN KUMAR GOUTAM (ADVOCATE)  
M-4/27, 3rd Floor, Opp. Park, Model Town-III, New Delhi-110009

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be it known to all that I, **Sh. Sudesh Chander Gupta S/o. Late Sh. Ram Lal Gupta R/O D-82, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057.** Alottee of Flat No. 8098, Third Floor, Scooter Garage No.98, SFS-CAT-II, Pocket- 8, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, vide File No. F-125(4232)1983/SFS/VKII, have applied for certified true copy of DDA documents 148, 8 & final Demand Letter cum Allotment Letter and Possession Slip, which have been lost or misplaced and are not traceable inspite of the best efforts. An FIR/NCR to this effect has been lodged in Crime Branch vide I.R. No. 2417608/2024, dated 20-12-2024.

Any person(s) claiming any rights, interest or having any objection may contact with above named person on phone No. 9013351002, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice or personally inform or write to Director or Dy. Director LAB (H) SFS, DDA, Vikas Sacan, New Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Inviting the objections/ suggestions for revision of building plans of Licence No. 33 of 2011 dated 16.04.2011 of an area 10.868 acres granted for development of Residential Group Housing Colony in the revenue estate of village Tikampur, Sector 103, Gurugram, Haryana by Landmark Apartments Pvt. Ltd.

In-Principal approval has been granted vide Memo No. ZP-721/SD (RD)/2024/40762 dated 20.12.2024 and whereas, the office of Director, Town and Country Planning Haryana, Chandigarh is seeking objections/suggestions vide this public notice from general public/allottees who have made bookings/entered into a purchase agreement for allotment of flat in the said colony for proposed revision of building plans limited to adverse effect on their rights, if any, in the office of concerned Senior Town Planner within a period of 30 days.

If you have any objection/suggestion on the above mentioned, you may file the same in the office of Senior Town Planner within 30 days of the issuance of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that there is no objections/suggestion at your point on the revision of building plans. The said permission granted is also being uploaded on our website [www.landmarkgoc.com](http://www.landmarkgoc.com)

M/s Landmark Apartments Private Limited  
Plot No. 65, Sector 44, Gurugram, Haryana- 122003

Date: 21.12.2024  
Place: Gurugram

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed that my client Kishan S/o Sh. Ek Nath, R/o G-124, Saket, New Delhi-17 is the absolute & sole owner and in full possession of the property bearing No 5 at First Floor, measuring 70 Sq. Yards situated in the Abadi of the Village Nee Sarai, Tehsil Saket, New Delhi-68 since 13 March 2024 and if any person enters into any agreement or other documents for the purchase or sale of the above said property with any other person without the permission of my client, he shall do it at his own risks and consequences and my client shall not be responsible for the same.

Neeraj Singh (Advocate)

**CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**

Registered Office: Aggarwal Corporate Tower, Plot No. 23, 5th Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008

**POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(3)**

Whereas the Authorized officer of **CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED** (CLIX), a Housing Finance Bank Company under the National Housing Bank Act, having its registered office Aggarwal Corporate Tower, Plot No. 23, 5th Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008, under the provision of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on as per under mentioned date. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "CLIX" and interest other charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

**BRIDGE WORKS**

**E-Tender Notice No. DCBL/15/2024/MLG Dated: 18-12-2024.** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **SN.1. Tender No. DCBL322024MLG.** Name of work: (A) Fabrication, supply & Replacement of open web steel bridge girder of span of Br. No.179 DN (5x45.7m) at km 161/2-4, 196DN (5x45.7m) at km. 169/7-0, 270 DN (span 3x45.7m) at km. 221/5-6 on the section New Alipurduar-Dangtal by 25T Loading under SSE/BR/Bongaigaon (B) Fabrication, supplying & replacement of steel girders of Bridge Number 521 (span 2x6.1+4x30.5m); 59DN (span 2x30.5+1x24.4m); 91DN (span 3x30.5m), 92DN (span 2x30.5m) and 63 (2x18.3m) by 25T Loading under SSE/BR/Pandu. **Tender Value: ₹62,73,68,588.86/- Earnest Money: ₹32,86,900/-** **SN.2. Tender No. DCBL332024MLG.** Name of work: (A) Fabrication, supplying & replacement of steel girders of Bridge Number 188 DN (span 2x18.3m); 210 DN (span 4x18.3m), 204 Dn (2x18.3m), 239 Dn (1x24.4) on the section New Alipurduar-Dangtal Bridge Number 165 UP (span 3x18.3m) and 385 UP (span 2x18.3m) on the section Alipurduar Jn.-Dangtal Br. No. 441 (span 1x18.3m RD), 456 (span 8x18.3m); 472 (span 5x18.3m), 477 (span 7x18.3m), 502 (span 8x18.3m) on the section Dangtal-Rangliya by 25T Loading under SSE/BR/Bongaigaon (B) Fabrication, supply & Replacement of steel bridge girder of Br No.507(1x18.3m) at km 426/3-4, Br No.512(1x18.3m) at km429/4-5, Br No.530(2x18.3m) at km 449/5-6, Br No.549(5x18.3m) at km 487/3-4 on Lumding-Tinsukia section and Replacement of existing Bed Plate of 15 Nos bridges under SSE/BR/Lumding. (C) Fabrication, supplying & replacement of steel girders of Bridge Number 16UP (span 3x18.3m), 48DN (span 4x18.3m S1-S2 & S4), 91DN (span 4x18.3m) and 97DN (span 4x18.3m) on the section New Jalpaiguri-New Alipurduar by 25T Loading under SSE/BR/Siliguri Jn. **Tender Value: ₹51,13,17,254.01/- Earnest Money: ₹27,06,600/-** **Date & Time of closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on 09-01-2025 & will be opened at 15.05 hrs. on 09-01-2025 at Deputy Chief Engineer/Bridge-Line/ Maligaon, Guwahati-781011 (Assam).** The complete information about the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Dy.CE/Bridge-Line/Maligaon

**CORRIGENDUM**

IN OUR NEWSPAPER THE ADVERTISEMENT OF AKASA FINANCE LIMITED (FORMERLY KNOWN AS PPOJA FINLEASE LTD.) WHICH IS PUBLISHED ON DATED 19.12.2024 IN THE RESERVE PRICE RS. 5 C.O.M RESERVE PRICE IS WRONGLY PRINTED AS 4,00,000/- AND 3,50,000/- PLEASE READ AS RESERVE PRICE (RS.) 40,00,000/- AND 35,00,000/- CONCERNED NOTE PLEASE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Before the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram New PWD Rest House, Civil Lines, Gurugram, Haryana (Proclamation) notice under Section 31 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 r/w rule 27 of the Haryana Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2017 for appearance & filing reply.

1. Complaint No. :CR/245/12/2023  
Complainant Name : Ranjeet Kumar,  
Respondent Name : ABV Infrastructure Limited,  
Next date of hearing and time 21.01.2025 at 11:00 AM.

To, Whereas the above titled complaint has been filed against the respondent i.e., ABV Infrastructure Limited by the complainant and this Authority is satisfied that there is reason to believe that the respondent is evading service of notice and this authority is further satisfied that the notice cannot be served in the ordinary way of service at the available addresses. Hence, this proclamation is hereby issued against the respondent to appear in the above titled case personally or through any authorised counsel before the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram situated at New PWD Rest House, Civil Lines, Gurugram, Haryana on 21st January, 2025 at 11:00 AM. The respondent shall also file reply to the above-mentioned complaint failing which the matter shall be heard ex-parte and decided in accordance with the provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and the Rules and Regulations made there under.

Assistant Registrar  
Real Estate Regulatory Authority  
Gurugram

**Publication / Notice**

IN THE HONOURABLE COURT OF THE DISTRICT CONSUMERS COMMISSION - I AT VISAKHAPATNAM  
CC No.297/2023

Between:  
Nagireddi Srinivasarao Complainant  
And:  
Flipkart Internet Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru represented by its Senior Manager and others ...  
Opposite Parties  
To  
Opposite Party No.4:  
Bathla Telech Private Limited, New Delhi represented by its Managing Director/ authorized Signatory,  
258, Gujranwala Town Part II,  
New Delhi - 110 009.

**NOTICE**

The Complainant filed the above case against the opposite parties for recovery of the cost of the Samsung Air Conditioner of Rs.43,687/- to the complainant and recovery of subsequent interest at 18% per annum and to pay compensation amount of Rs.1,00,000/- etc., other reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear in the above mentioned court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above complaint on 09-01-2025 at 10:30 A.M. In default of your appearance on that day, the complaint will be heard and determined in your absence.

// BY ORDER //  
P.Sreenivas Patnaik  
Advocate for the Complainant  
Visakhapatnam,  
Dt. 21-12-2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is Inform that I Raj Singh S/o. Sh. Late Godhu Singh R/o Village Chaura, Sadatpur , Sector-22, Noida , Gautam budh nagar, U.P have severed all relationships with my son Deepak & Devender Disowned him from all their movable & immovable properties. I will not be liable for any acts done by him in respect of the above said and all concerned properties or any person.

**MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED**

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002**

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer, under the provision of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, of Manibhavnam Home Finance India Private Limited having its Registered Office at 2nd Floor, N-2, South Extension Part-I, New Delhi-110049, (hereinafter referred to as "MNFIF"), which has duly been authorized by the Central Government, vide a notification dated 17/07/2002, in the name of the undersigned, to take possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on as per under mentioned date. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "CLIX" and interest other charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

**Indian Overseas Bank**

**NHPC BRANCH**  
(Address, NHPC, Complex, Sec-33, Faridabad (Haryana) Pincode - 121003)

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1))]

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, NHPC Branch, Faridabad, under the Securitization 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 10/06/2024 calling upon the borrower M/s. Prem Machine Tools Plot No-101, Road No. 5 (W), Saroopur Industrial Area, Faridabad. All legal heirs of its proprietor Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma and guarantor /Mortgagor Mrs. Kusum Sharma and Mr. Chandar Prakash Sharma having to residential address at Jeewan Nagar, Ganchi, Saroopur, Ballabghar, Faridabad, Haryana, 121004, (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 28,36,604.46 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh, Thirty Six Thousand, Six Hundred Four and Paise Forty Six Only) as on 10-06-2024 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.

**Indian Overseas Bank**

**NHPC BRANCH**  
(Address, NHPC, Complex, Sec-33, Faridabad (Haryana) Pincode - 121003)

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
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**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, JC-471807A Sub Maj Jaya Singh of 5 RAJ RIF; R/O VPO-Panchayawala, Teh- Jhothwara, Dist - Jaipur (Rajasthan), My son name DALIP SINGH erroneously mentioned in my service document, which is incorrect. My son correct name is DILIP SINGH hence, my son correct name DILIP SINGH will be mention in my Army Service Records.

PD(1116)C  
I, Ram Jiwan Prasad Yadav, Father of No.14644659W Hav Bhupender, R/o- Vill-PO-Durgapur, Teh-Dist- Khagaria, Bihar- 851204, have changed my name from Ram Jiwan Prasad Yadav vide affidavit dated 16/12/2024 before Executive Magistrate Delhi Cantt.

**ARYABHATTA COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

Website: [www.aryabhatacollege.ac.in](http://www.aryabhatacollege.ac.in)

Ref. No. : AC/AdvT (NT)/2024/001 21.12.2024

**RECRUITMENT ADVERTISEMENT**

Online applications are invited for various permanent Non-Teaching posts. For complete details, Instructions, General Conditions, Eligibility Criteria, please visit the website [www.aryabhatacollege.ac.in](http://www.aryabhatacollege.ac.in) or [www.du.ac.in](http://www.du.ac.in).

The link for the online application will be active:- w.e.f. 21.12.2024.

The last date for submission of application will be:- 10.01.2025.

Any corrigendum/ addendum will be posted on the College website only.

**PRINCIPAL**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Lost My Sale Deed Of Ground Floor, Part Of Property No S-8, Admeasuring 48 Sq.yards, Situated In Village Madipur Known As Shivaji Park, New Delhi/110026 Which Was Executed By Mrs. Manjit Kaur W/o Manjeet Singh As A Regd. Gpa Holder Of Mr. Ramsaroop In Favour Of Mr. Rameesh Singh S/o Manjit Singh On 10/07/2006 Duly Registered As Document No 3647, Entered In Addl. Book No 1, Vol. No. 417,page No 40 To50 & Regd. On 10/07/2006 With The Office Of Sub Registrar-I/A, Delhi.

Fr Has Been Lodged Vide Lr No 2402565/2024 Dated 16-12-2024 In Police Station Crime Branch Delhi.finder May Send To Mr. Tarun Pal Singh Jaggi At Above Address Or Phone 958229881.

**Indian Overseas Bank**

**NHPC BRANCH**  
(Address, NHPC, Complex, Sec-33, Faridabad (Haryana) Pincode - 121003)

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1))]

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, NHPC Branch, Faridabad, under the Securitization 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 10/06/2024 calling upon the borrower M/s. Prem Machine Tools Plot No-101, Road No. 5 (W), Saroopur Industrial Area, Faridabad. All legal heirs of its proprietor Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma and guarantor /Mortgagor Mrs. Kusum Sharma and Mr. Chandar Prakash Sharma having to residential address at Jeewan Nagar, Ganchi, Saroopur, Ballabghar, Faridabad, Haryana, 121004, (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 28,36,604.46 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh, Thirty Six Thousand, Six Hundred Four and Paise Forty Six Only) as on 10-06-2024 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.

**Indian Overseas Bank**

**NHPC BRANCH**  
(Address, NHPC, Complex, Sec-33, Faridabad (Haryana) Pincode - 121003)

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**ARYABHATTA COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

Website: [www.aryabhatacollege.ac.in](http://www.aryabhatacollege.ac.in)

Ref. No. : AC/AdvT (NT)/2024/001 21.12.2024

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**PRINCIPAL**

**Indian Overseas Bank**

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**BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi**  
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Date: 21.12.2024

E-tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited as per the following details:

NIT No.	Tender Description	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CM/CB/Y24-25/RS/SV/VK/50	CIVIL RETROFITTING WORKS OF OFFICE BUILDINGS & GRID BUILDINGS IN BYPL	5 Lakh	13.01.2025 15:30 Hrs	13.01.2025 16:00 Hrs

Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 1,180/- (Including GST)  
For details in respect of the Purchase & Submission of Tender Documents, Qualifying Requirements, Scope of Work, Terms & Conditions, Material/Services/BOQ, Corrigendum, etc, please visit our website [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com) → **BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD→ Tenders→ Open Tenders**. Head (Contracts & Materials)  
Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525  
Website: [www.bsesdelhi.com](http://www.bsesdelhi.com)

**Office of the Superintending Engineer**  
**2nd Circle, Public Works Department, Nainital-263002**

Phone/Fax: 05942-235728/ 232030 Email: [sepwdnti@rediffmail.com](mailto:sepwdnti@rediffmail.com)

Letter No. : 4965/ 41-M-2/2024 Dated : 20/12/2024

**National Competitive Bidding Short Term (E-Tendering)**

Superintending Engineer, 2nd Circle, Public Works Department Nainital on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites e-tender (two bid system). For further details please log on to <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 24-12-2024.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lakh Rs.)	Cost of Tender	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Improvement and reconstruction work in Mauna Laveshal inter college and primary school in km 10 of Kalapatat motor road, km 1 from Matiyali to ancient temple Kairailam. Ghatgad motor road from Laveshal Inter College in km 1 to 4 Under state sector in block Ramgarh Bhimtal constituency district Nainital.	6.50	5000+ 18% G.S.T.	120 days	12 month	Category "A/A+" for road work in any State /Govt. of India or Govt. undertaking

**Indian Overseas Bank**

**NHPC BRANCH**  
(Address, NHPC, Complex, Sec-33, Faridabad (Haryana) Pincode - 121003)

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1))]

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, NHPC Branch, Faridabad, under the Securitization 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 10/06/2024 calling upon the borrower M/s. Prem Machine Tools Plot No-101, Road No. 5 (W), Saroopur Industrial Area, Faridabad. All legal heirs of its proprietor Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma and guarantor /Mortgagor Mrs. Kusum Sharma and Mr. Chandar Prakash Sharma having to residential address at Jeewan Nagar, Ganchi, Saroopur, Ballabghar, Faridabad, Haryana, 121004, (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 28,36,604.46 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh, Thirty Six Thousand, Six Hundred Four and Paise Forty Six Only) as on 10-06-2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till

# Six entities pay ₹ 3.49 crore to settle front-running trade case with Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Six entities, including Samir Kothari and Jitendra N Kewalramani, has settled with Sebi in a case pertaining to the suspected front-running of trades by paying ₹ 3.49 crore towards settlement charges.

The other entities that settled the matter with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) are Kuntal Goel, Jitendra N Kewalramani HUF, Dipika J Kewalramani and Pallavi Shailesh Nayak, Sebi said in the order on Thursday.

Apart from the settlement amount, Sebi's committee placed other conditions to settle the case.

These included disgorgement of unlawful gain totalling ₹2.06 crore along with 12 per cent interest per

annum from the date of the impugned transaction to the date of filing of the settlement application for disgorgement to be paid by Samir Kothari, Kuntal Goel and Jitendra N Kewalramani.

Also, the six entities will voluntarily be debarred themselves from the securities markets for six months.

The order came after Sebi received four separate settlement applications from the applicants in March 2024, proposing to settle the instant proceedings through a settlement order "without admitting or denying the allegations".

"It is hereby ordered that the proceedings initiated against the applicants, vide show cause notice dated January 24, 2024, is disposed of," Sebi's Chief General Manager



Santosh Shukla said in the settlement order. Sebi conducted an investiga-

tion to ascertain whether there was any violation of the provisions of PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) rules by certain entities dur-

ing the period from January 2021 to October 2022.

Pursuant to the investigation, a common show cause notice dated January 24, 2024, was issued to certain entities, including the applicants.

The SCN alleged that the applicants and other notices were consistently placing orders ahead of Bharat Kanaiyalal Sheth Family Trust and Arjun Discretionary Trust (collectively referred to as the Big Clients) in the equity (cash) segment of NSE and were squaring off the same.

Further, Jitendra, who was the authorised person of Angel One was, directly or indirectly, in possession of the details of the impending orders to be placed by the big clients.

Accordingly, during the investigation period front running trades were allegedly executed by him in his own trading account and the trading accounts of certain entities, including the applicants (except Kuntal Goel and Samir Kothari), who were all related/associated to him during the probe period.

Sebi also alleged that Jitendra was connected to Kothari through an employer-employee relationship, while Kuntal, who possessed the information of the impending trades of the big client is connected to Samir Kothari by way of frequent calls leading to Jitendra having access to the non-public-information-of-the-impending orders of the big clients.

The rest of the notices/ applicants were, directly or indi-

rectly, in possession of the details of the impending orders to be placed on behalf of the big clients, through Jitendra, who then placed orders in clients' accounts to generate abnormal profits.

Therefore, the regulator alleged that the notices have contravened the PFUTP norms.

Thereafter, the applicants filed revised settlement terms which were approved by Sebi's High Powered Advisory Committee (HPAC). Apart from remitting the disgorgement amount, individually, Jitendra N Kewalramani paid ₹ 64.29 lakh, while Kuntal paid ₹ 55.90 lakh, and ₹57.20 lakh each paid by Kothari, Jitendra N Kewalramani HUF, Dipika J Kewalramani and Pallavi Shailesh Nayak.

## Sensex tanks 1,176 points, Nifty falls below 23,600 level

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty plunged about 1.5 per cent on Friday, taking their downtrend to the fifth straight session, due to risk aversion in the global markets after the hawkish stance of the US Federal Reserve.

The 30-share BSE benchmark tumbled 1,176.46 points or 1.49 per cent to settle at 78,041.59. During the day, it slumped 1,343.46 points or 1.69 per cent to 77,874.59. The NSE Nifty tanked 364.20 points or 1.52 per cent to 23,587.50. From the 30 blue-chip Sensex pack, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services, UltraTech Cement and Reliance Industries were the biggest laggards.



In contrast, JSW Steel, Nestle and Titan were the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading in the negative territory. Wall Street ended on a mixed note on Thursday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,224.92 crore on Thursday, according to

exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.96 per cent to USD 72.18 a barrel. Falling for the fourth day running, the 30-share BSE benchmark tanked 964.15 points or 1.20 per cent to settle at 79,218.05 on Thursday. The Nifty tumbled 247.15 points or 1.02 per cent to sink below the 24,000 mark at 23,951.70.

PTI ■ PATNA

Bihar Industries and Tourism Minister Nitish Mishra on Friday asserted that the state is poised to play a key role in the country's growth engine, as he announced a record Rs 1.8 lakh crore investments across sectors, more than triple the amount received at its maiden investor meet last year. Detailing the investment proposals received at the end of the two-day 'Bihar Business Connect 2024' investor summit, Mishra said several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) entailing investment of over Rs 1.8 lakh crore have been signed. Sun Petrochemicals will invest Rs 36,700 crore in renewable energy, including pump hydro and solar plants. Adani Group is looking to invest Rs 20,000 crore in setting up an ultra-supercritical thermal power plant. Besides, the group also announced investment towards expanding the cement capacity as well as in



the warehousing and logistics sector. At the summit, leading companies such as NHPC (Rs 5,500 crore for renewable energy sector), SLMG Beverages (Rs 3,000 crore for food processing sector), Shree Cements (Rs 800 crore in general manufacturing category), and Haldiram Snacks Pvt Ltd (Rs 300 crore for food processing sector) also inked

MoUs with the state. "The state government is committed to develop Bihar into a major destination for investment in the country. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who participated and became a part of this new journey of Bihar... I am fully confident that Bihar has the potential to become a major growth engine of the country. We signed MoUs

with different investors worth Rs 1.80 lakh crore in different sectors... It's a huge achievement for Bihar," Mishra said.

"Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already said that Bihar is advancing... We are moving ahead strongly in that direction," he asserted.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha said Bihar is the "land of history and future of the country". "After Independence, large investments were made in Jamshepur (which was then a part of united Bihar) and Rohtas. Bihar has always been providing an industrial base," Sinha said.

"Today, Bihar is also working in the field of exploration of heavy mines and minerals... In Jamui and Rohtas, Gaya and Jehanabad," he added. Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, who was scheduled to address the concluding day of the summit, could not attend the event due to illness, officials said.

The state's Energy Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav, however, read out a message on behalf of the CM.

"The Bihar government has made several policies for development of industries. It is a matter of happiness that now you (investors) are working towards the development of Bihar. I am confident that people of the state will receive the benefits of the environment that is being created for industrial development in the state," the chief minister's message said.

Bandana Preyashi, Secretary, Industries Department, said compared to last year, the state received significantly more investment proposals in the 2024 summit. "Last year, the sum was Rs 53,000 crore. Investments will be made in food processing and general manufacturing, health, information technology, logistics, plastics and rubber, real estate, renewable energy, textiles, leather and hospitality and skill development sectors," she said.

# HC upholds award of tender to Adani Group to redevelop Dharavi slums

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what came as a big relief to the Adani group, the Bombay High Court on Friday dismissed a petition filed by UAE-based Seclink Technologies challenging the Maharashtra government's decision to cancel its 2019 bid for the redevelopment of Dharavi slums and issue a fresh tender in 2022.

"There was no arbitrariness, unreasonableness or perversity in the decision of awarding the contract," a HC division bench of justices DK Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar noted as it dismissed a petition filed by UAE-based Seclink Technologies Corporation, which has challenged the Maharashtra government's decision to award the contract to Adani Properties Pvt Ltd. The dismissal of Seclink's peti-

tion should be seen in the context that the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) figured prominently during the 2024 Lok Sabha and State Assembly polls as it was a major bone of contention between the BJP-led MahaYuti and the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, which is a part of the Opposition MVA, had announced that if elected to power, it would cancel the DRP contract awarded to the Adani group.

It may be recalled that M/s Seclink Technologies had emerged as the highest bidder for the project in 2018, but the tender was scrapped in 2019 by the Maharashtra government which initiated a fresh tender process in 2022 with modified conditions for the redevelopment project. Seclink had originally won the bid for the Dharavi redevelop-



ment project in 2019, surpassing Adani's bid of Rs 4,539 crore. However, in 2022, the Eknath Shinde-led MahaYuti government decided to include 45 acres of railway land in the project for slum rehabilitation, which was not part of the original proposal. The state government sought

advice from Advocate General Ashutosh Kumbhakoni on ways to accommodate the costs of acquiring the railway land. Kumbhakoni recommended a new tender to reflect the changes. Consequently, the Maharashtra government cancelled the 2019 tender and launched a fresh

bidding process in 2022. On its part, Seclink argued that the inclusion of railway land had already been accounted for in the original 2019 tender, as the bid map included nearly 90 acres of railway land. Questioning the government's rationale behind cancelling the bid, Seclink argued that the

market tender terms were designed to exclude them and benefit Adani. Seclink further stated that it suffered a financial loss of Rs 8,424 crore due to the cancellation of its bid. Defending its decision to cancel the earlier tender awarded to Seclink, the Maharashtra government told the high court that the revised conditions were not arbitrary but had been developed after careful consideration of the changed economic landscape.

The state government argued that the financial and economic conditions had shifted significantly between 2019 and 2022, influenced by factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, fluctuations in the Rupee-USD exchange rate, interest rate volatility, and an overall high-risk investor environment. The State government also argued that these changes necessitated adjustments to the

project's terms, ensuring the development was financially viable and aligned with the larger public interest.

While rejecting the contentions made by Seclink that the revised tender was "tailor made" to suit a particular firm of the private conglomerate, noting three bidders had participated in the process, the HC bench said: "The petition lacks force and hence stands dismissed".

"As far as the submissions made on behalf of the petitioner that tender conditions were tailor-made to suit a particular tenderer, we may observe that in response to the fresh tender three bidders had participated out of which two bids were found to be technically qualified. Meaning thereby, at least two bidders fulfilled the technical conditions and therefore, since there were more than two bidders in the field who participated out of

which two technically qualified, it cannot be said that the tender conditions were tailor-made so as to suit only a particular bidder," the HC bench noted.

Senior Advocate Virendra Tulzapurkar with advocates Mandar Soman, Suraj Iyer, Jenil Shah, Devendra Ailawadi, Mani Thevar, Anuj Singh and Abhishek Karnik instructed by Ganesh and Co appeared for the petitioner. Senior Advocate Milind Sathe with Additional Government Pleaders Jyoti Chavan, Atul Vanarse and advocates Bhushan Deshmukh, Aditya Mhase appeared for the State. Senior Advocate Ravindra Kadam with Senior Advocate Vikram Nankani, Zal Andharyujina and advocates Rohan Kadam, Karan Bhide, Rati Patni, Kathleen Lobo, Vikrant Dere instructed by Wadia Ghandy & Co appeared for Adani Properties.

## CREDAI urges Central Govt to reconsider 18% GST on FSI charges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) has urged the Central Government to reconsider its proposal to impose an 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Floor Space Index (FSI) and additional FSI charges paid to local authorities for real estate projects. CREDAI warned that the move could escalate housing prices by approximately 10% across India, disrupting housing affordability and project viability. CREDAI emphasized that applying GST on FSI charges would significantly increase construction costs, especially if imposed retrospectively. Developers could face hefty financial liabilities, potentially stalling ongoing projects and jeopardizing homebuyers' investments. Even a prospective implementation could hinder the government's 'Housing for All' mission by making affordable housing economically unviable. "FSI charges constitute a sig-



nificant portion of project costs," said Boman Irani, President of CREDAI National. "The proposal to impose 18% GST on these charges could destabilize the real estate sector, leading to increased housing prices and delayed project deliveries. We urge the government to exempt FSI charges from GST." CREDAI cited legal provisions supporting its stance. According to Notifications 14/2017 and 12/2017 under the GST Act, services provided by Central, State, or local authorities related to functions listed in Article 243W of the Constitution—such as urban planning and land regulation—are exempt from GST. The twelfth schedule of the Constitution explicitly includes

urban planning, land-use regulation, and slum improvement among municipal functions, reinforcing the industry's claim that FSI charges should remain outside the GST's scope.

The association also highlighted that developers cannot claim Input Tax Credit (ITC) on GST paid for such charges, causing double taxation and further inflating housing costs. This, in turn, would adversely impact the purchasing power of middle-class homebuyers, who make up 70% of the housing market. CREDAI has appealed to the Central Government to maintain the current exemption on FSI charges. The association warned that imposing GST could create a cascading effect, reducing housing supply and demand while affecting economic growth linked to the real estate sector. "The government must maintain the current status quo," Irani stressed. "Any retrospective or prospective GST levy could destabilize the sector, delay project completions, and compromise homeownership dreams for millions of Indians."

## Gold dips ₹170 to ₹78,130 per 10 gm; silver plunges ₹1,850

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices extended the slide for the third straight session and fell ₹ 170 to Rs 78,130 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid selling by jewellers and stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity ended at Rs 78,300 per 10 grams on Thursday. Silver prices plunged ₹ 1,850 to ₹ 88,150 per kg due to reduced offtake by industrial units and coin makers. The white metal closed at ₹ 90,000 per kg in the previous session. The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity went lower by ₹ 170 to ₹ 77,730 per 10 grams against the previous close of ₹ 77,900 per 10 grams. Traders attributed the fall in yellow metal prices to lacklustre demand from local jewellers. In futures trade on the MCX, gold contracts for February delivery rose ₹ 50 or 0.07 per cent to trade at ₹ 75,701 per 10 grams on Friday. "Gold witnessed minor buy-



ing as the USD 2,600-level on Comex acted as a temporary support, alongside ₹ 75,500 in the domestic MCX market. The momentum remains volatile due to uncertainties surrounding the interest rate cycle. "Although the Fed decided to keep rates lower, its projections indicated fewer rate cuts going forward, which has maintained pressure on gold prices for the past two days," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said. Meanwhile, silver futures contracts for March delivery slumped ₹ 647 or 0.74 per cent to ₹ 86,540 per kg on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

Globally, Comex gold futures advanced USD 13.10 to USD 2,621.20 per ounce.

"Market players will watch the core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) prices index data due later today, and more selling will be witnessed in precious metals counters if the actual figure comes above estimates," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. According to Kotak Securities, Comex gold futures saw some recovery and traded near USD 2,620 per ounce on Friday, but headed for weekly decline as investors reassessed interest rate expectations following the US Federal Reserve's latest decision.

Despite a rate cut, Fed Chair Powell's emphasis on continued inflation progress tempered expectations for further easing. Resilient economic data, including upwardly revised consumer spending, further weakened the case for imminent rate cuts, the brokerage firm said.

Silver quoted 0.41 per cent lower at 29.29 per ounce in the overseas market.

## Rupee recovers from all-time low, gains 10 paise to 85.03 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee saw some recovery from its all-time low level and appreciated 10 paise to close at 85.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, on softening of the US dollar index and a potential intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Forex traders said the rupee is likely to remain in a weakening mode due to significant dollar demand. The Dollar Index (DXY) is expected to remain elevated, with resistance near the 110 level in the near-term amid a reduced likelihood of significant Fed rate cuts in 2025.

The Federal Reserve cut rates by 25 basis points on Wednesday, but its forward guidance for 2025 has softened, with expectations reduced from four rate cuts to just two. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.07 against the greenback. During the day it witnessed an intraday high of 84.95 and a low of 85.12 before ending the session at 85.03 (provisional) against dollar, higher by 10

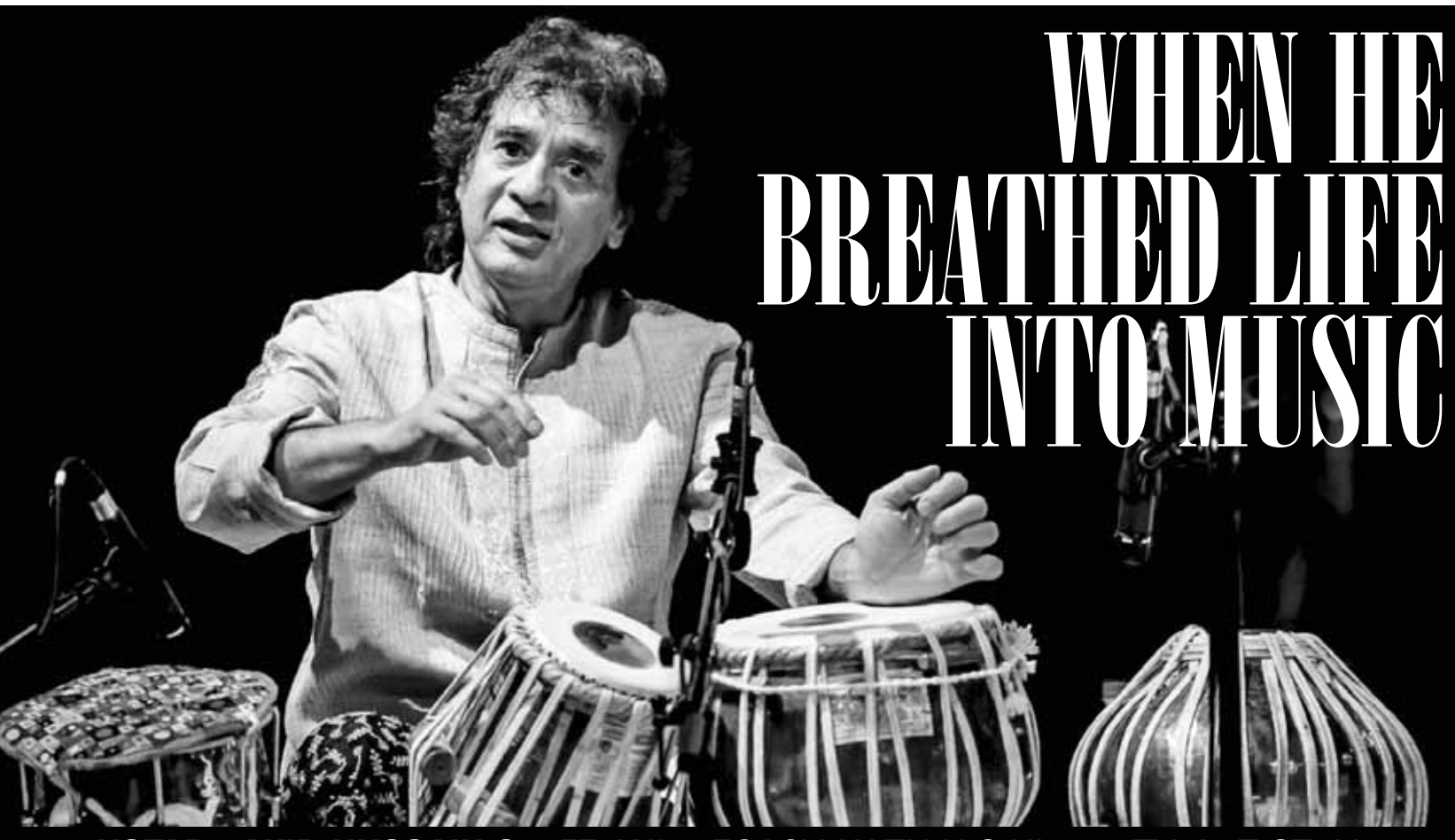


paise over its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee depreciated 19 paise and breached the crucial 85 level to close at a fresh all-time low of 85.13 against the US dollar. Traders said the rupee recovered from lower levels in the latter half of the day on softening of the US dollar index and a potential intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). A decline in crude oil prices also supported the rupee at lower levels. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on weak domestic markets and overall strength in the US dollar amid a hawkish Fed and improved US economy," Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said.



It would be wrong to say that I – like many other admirers of *Ustad Zakir Hussain* – am not shocked and mourning the demise of the maestro on December 15, 2024. But while there are countless messages on social media from those who are offering their tributes and remembering the maestro's greatness, it is a moment to also remember *Zakir Hussain* for his humility despite his multiple accolades and achievements. I must also convincingly add that it would further be wrong to say that the world of 'taal' and 'rhythm' fell silent on December 15, 2024, as *Ustad Zakir Hussain* breathed his last in San Francisco at 73, leaving behind an unparalleled legacy in the realm of music. For decades, his hands transformed the tabla from a classical Indian percussion instrument into a universal language, one that bridged the East and the West, traditional and contemporary, music and magic. It can, however, be said that while the 'taals' and 'taranas' seem momentarily muted, *Zakir Hussain's* music continues to echo in the hearts of millions.

Born on March 9, 1951, in Mumbai, *Zakir Hussain* was the son of *Ustad Alla Rakha*, another tabla virtuoso. From a young age, *Zakir* was destined for greatness, showing an uncanny ability to master the intricacies of rhythm. His music wasn't just a recital of beats – it was a dialogue, a dance, a spiritual experience. Even as a child prodigy, he bore the weight of his father's towering legacy with grace, eventually shaping his own path and taking 'tabla' to a realm previously unimaginable.



# WHEN HE BREATHED LIFE INTO MUSIC

## USTAD ZAKIR HUSSAIN'S LIFE AND LEGACY, WITH HIS HUMILITY, ARTISTRY, AND DEEP CONNECTION TO TRADITION, WILL CONTINUE TO INSPIRE

**REDEFINING THE TABLA**

*Zakir Hussain* revolutionised the art of tabla playing, elevating it from its conventional role as a supporting instrument to a soloist's pride of place on the world stage. With a profound understanding of tradition and heritage, he seamlessly blended his technical virtuosity with creative improvisation, crafting performances that transcended genres and boundaries. His hands moved like poetry, crafting rhythmic patterns so intricate and yet so accessible that even the untrained ear could sense the brilliance of his craft.

His collaborations with artists across the globe are a testament to his genius. With guitarist *John McLaughlin*, he co-founded the band 'Shakti', a pioneering force in fusion music that blended Indian classical music with jazz and rock. His work with *Mickey Hart* of the 'Grateful

Dead' in 'Planet Drum' brought Indian percussion to global prominence, winning a Grammy for Best World Music Album in 1992. He had the remarkable ability to connect disparate musical traditions, forging symphonies that spoke to the universal spirit of humanity. Whether performing with *Ravi Shankar* in a sitar-tabla 'jugalbandi' or jamming with *Yo-Yo Ma's* 'Silk Road Ensemble', he approached each with reverence and curiosity, breaking barriers without ever diluting the essence of the tabla.

**WHAT PARAMPARA (LINEAGE) MEANT FOR THE USTAD**

Despite his global persona, *Zakir Hussain* remained deeply rooted in Indian musical traditions. His performances were steeped in the wisdom of centuries, carrying forward the parampara (lineage) of the Punjab gharana while infusing it with his own

innovations. He viewed the tabla as not just an instrument but a storyteller, capable of expressing every shade of human emotion – from the ecstatic to the meditative. His renditions of complex 'talas' ('teental', 'jhaptal', and 'rupak tal') revealed his mastery of rhythm and timing, yet what set him apart was his ability to infuse each beat with life and soul. Even as he experimented with cross-cultural sounds, *Zakir Hussain* never let the tabla lose its identity. He saw fusion as a dialogue rather than a compromise, where traditions could coexist and enrich one another.

In his lecture-demonstrations, *Zakir Hussain* often spoke about the spiritual dimension of music. For him, the tabla was a medium of devotion and transcendence, a way to connect with the divine. It is this depth of understanding that lent his performances an ethereal quality, leaving audiences spellbound.



**A LESSON IN HUMILITY**

*Zakir Hussain's* fame was unparalleled, yet his humility remained his most endearing quality. Despite receiving countless accolades, including the *Padma Vibhushan*, *Padma Bhushan*, *Padma Shri*, *Sangeet Natak Akademi Award*,

*Kalidas Samman*, the *United States National Heritage Fellowship*, and the *Grammy Awards*, he carried himself with the grace and simplicity of a true artist. He was equally at ease performing in the grandest concert halls of the world and in intimate 'baithaks' (gatherings). He often attributed his success to his gurus, his parents, and his fellow musicians, never once allowing his stature to overshadow his respect for the art form. "I am just a student," he would say, even as the world hailed him as a master. He viewed music, like life, as a journey rather than a destination and won the love and admiration of millions of fans worldwide. His recordings, whether solo albums like *Making Music* or collaborations like *Friday Night* in San Francisco, remain timeless treasures. *Zakir Hussain's* artistry lies in his unparalleled ability to create magic through jugalbandis with luminaries of Indian classical music. His tabla became

a dynamic companion, engaging in profound musical dialogues with *Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia's* flute, *Ustad Amjad Ali Khan's* sarod, *Pandit Shivkumar Sharma's* santoor, *L. Subramaniam's* violin, and *Ustad Bismillah Khan's* shehnai. These collaborations celebrated the interplay of rhythm and melody, captivating audiences with performances that evoked joy, wonder, and reverence. *Zakir Hussain* also collaborated with maestros like *Ustad Ali Akbar Khan* (sarod), creating harmonies that bridged the spiritual and the artistic. In recent years, he extended his genius to a new generation, performing with *Niladri Kumar* (electric sitar), *Rakesh Chaurasia* (flute), and *Kala Ramnath* (violin), proving his tabla transcends time and tradition. These jugalbandis were not mere performances but soulful exchanges, transforming the stage into a realm of divine musical ecstasy. *Zakir Hussain's* tabla seamlessly complemented the soul-stirring renditions of legends like *Pandit Bhimsen Joshi*, *Kishori Amonkar*, *Pt. Birju Maharaj*, and *Pt. Rajan-Sajan Mishra*. With *Pandit Jasraj*, his intricate rhythmic patterns enriched majestic 'khyal' performances, blending melody and rhythm to captivate audiences. Equally remarkable were his collaborations with *Girija Devi*, *Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna*, *Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty*, and *Ustad Rashid Khan*, where his tabla brought depth to 'thumris', 'kritis', and other 'gayaki ang's, enhancing their emotive essence. With humility and brilliance, he elevated vocal accompaniment and the rhythmic artistry of 'ghungroos', setting unparalleled standards in the interplay of rhythm and melody.

**LEGENDS NEVER DIE**

And as we remember the legend, it was he who transformed the tabla into an instrument of infinite possibilities, inspiring countless musicians to explore its depths. His students, many of whom are now torchbearers of the art form, continue to carry forward his teachings, ensuring that the rhythms he created will never fade. In the words of the maestro himself: "Music is a prayer. It's a conversation with the universe. It's infinite, just like the spirit of the human soul." Wah *Ustad... Wah...!* We will never miss saying this. Farewell.

— *Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti*



# ART OF SELF-REFLECTION

## Anupam Sud's exhibition explores human vulnerability through powerful printmaking techniques, says SAKSHI PRIYA



Walking into *Anupam Sud: The Journey A Full Circle* at the *Palette Art Gallery* is like stepping into the mind of an artist who has spent decades exploring the intricacies of human existence. Her works don't just hang on the walls; they resonate, confront, and invite contemplation. This exhibition, spanning five decades of her artistic practice, feels less like a retrospective and more like a conversation, a dialogue between past and present, and invite contemplation. This exhibition, spanning five decades of her artistic practice, feels less like a retrospective and more like a conversation, a dialogue between past and present,



deliberate, layered with meaning and emotion. Her figures, often placed in sparse, almost theatrical compositions, seem to ask questions rather than offer answers. Who are we beneath our constructed identities? What does it mean to be human in a society that often feels fractured and disconnected? What sets *Sud* apart is her mastery of technique, but even more so her willingness to push its boundaries. From

her early etchings to her recent pandemic-era print collages, there's a sense of fearless experimentation. She refers to her process as embracing the "controlled accident," and this philosophy permeates her art. It's not just about precision but about allowing the unexpected to shape her work, a balance of discipline and spontaneity. Perhaps most striking is how her art reflects her lived experience. Her portrayal of urban life, the complex roles

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



# A THEATRICAL FEAST OF LAUGHTER

## A lively three-day journey of laughter and theatre, where comedy and powerful performances sparked joy, reflection and unforgettable connections, says SAKSHI PRIYA

"Laughter is the shortest distance between two people," and nowhere was this more evident than at the *Hasya Rang Utsav*. Over three unforgettable days, the festival brought together the joy of stand-up comedy and the depth of theatre, reminding audiences of the transformative power of humour. From belly-aching laughter to moments of quiet reflection, this celebration of wit and performance art left an indelible mark on everyone who attended.

The festival began with a bang, as the ever-charming *Sunil Pal* took to the stage. Known for his effortless humour and relatable anecdotes, *Pal* had the audience in stitches with his clever observations on daily life. His performance was a shared experience, as the laughter rippled through the crowd, breaking barriers and setting the tone for the days ahead. The evening continued with *Charandas Chor*, *Habib Tanvir's* iconic satire brought to life under the direction of *Rajesh Tiwari*. This story of a thief with an unusual moral compass combined folk music, rich storytelling, and a sharp critique of human hypocrisy, leaving the audience both entertained and



contemplative. Day two brought the unstoppable energy of *Ehsaan Qureshi*, whose rhythmic comedy and sharp wit had the crowd



roaring with laughter. His ability to find humour in the smallest details made every punchline resonate deeply. The evening continued with *Ghar Ka Na Ghat Ka*, written by *Jaywardhan Singh* and directed by *J.P. Singh*. Tackling the societal obsession with male heirs, the play used humour to hold a mirror to deeply rooted traditions. Witty dialogues and relatable characters made the satire both hilarious and thought-provoking. The festival's grand finale was nothing short of spectacular. *VIP*, a comedian with an infectious stage presence, swept the audience off their feet with his quick humour and high-energy act. The night concluded with *Bank Manager*, a masterful adaptation of *Anton Chekhov's* works, directed by *Shyam Kumar*. With its clever exploration of human absurdities and comic misunderstandings, the play was a fitting end to this laughter-filled journey.

The *Hasya Rang Utsav* captured the essence of how humour can connect, heal, and spark reflection, leaving its mark on both the audience's hearts and minds. It was a celebration of life, its complexities, and the joy of shared moments of laughter.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



# BEATS IN THE AIR

By **TEAM VIVA**

Music has the extraordinary ability to bring people together, and this was beautifully evident at a recent concert in New Delhi. Held at *ibis New Delhi Aerocity*, the event brought music enthusiasts under one roof for an unforgettable evening of melody, rhythm, and connection.

The spotlight of the evening was on *Nikhita Gandhi*, who delivered a mesmerising performance that kept the

audience enthralled. With her soulful voice and dynamic stage presence, she performed some of her most beloved tracks, including the hauntingly beautiful "Qaafirana." The setlist also featured chart-topping numbers like "Raabta," "Burj Khalifa," and "Do You Love Me," each song showcasing her versatility and leaving the audience in wonder. The concert was more than just a musical performance, it was an experience. The thoughtfully curated ambience, combined with delectable food and warm

hospitality, enhanced the joy of the evening. Every detail, from the stage design to the sound quality, contributed to making the night both intimate and exhilarating. As the final chords faded into the night, the crowd departed with beaming faces, humming tunes that stayed long after the concert ended. It was a remarkable evening, a celebration of music and human connection that will be cherished for a long time to come.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

# Teenage sensation Konstas called up for Boxing Day Tests, McSweeney dropped

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Teenage sensation Sam Konstas was handed a maiden call up as Australia on Friday dropped rookie opener Nathan McSweeney for the final two Test matches of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India. The 19-year-old is set to become Australia's youngest Test batting debutant in over 70 years. If Konstas, who turned 19 on October 2, is selected in the playing XI in the Boxing Day Test, he would become Australia's youngest Test debutant since captain Pat Cummins, who was 18 years and 193 days old when he made his debut against South Africa in Johannesburg in 2011. The teenager would also become the youngest specialist batter to debut for Australia since Ian Craig when he played against South Africa at the MCG in 1953 aged 17 years 239 days.

Konstas' inclusion follows a series of disappointing performances from the Australian top order in the first three Tests especially McSweeney. The 25-year-old, who made his Test debut in the series-opener in Perth, failed to score a single half century and could only manage scores of 10, 0, 39, 10 not out, 9 and 4 in his six innings and was dismissed by Indian pace Jasprit Bumrah spearhead four times. Konstas had been in the reckoning to partner experienced Usman Khawaja after grabbing the attention of Cricket Australia's selection committee following his twin Sheffield Shield centuries for New South Wales. He had scored an unbeaten 73 at the MCG against India A while notching up a ton (107) in the Prime Ministers XI pink ball game against India in Canberra. "Sam gets a call up to the Test squad for the first time. His style of batting offers a point of difference and we look



forward to watching his game develop further," Australian Chair of Selectors George Bailey said. "We remain confident Nathan has the ability and

temperament to succeed at Test level in the future. It was a difficult decision to leave him out. "It has clearly been a challenge at the top of the order for



batters throughout the series and we want to provide the option of a different line up for the next two matches," he added. Konstas' inclusion follows a

changes to the batting lineup for the Boxing Day Test. The former selector said it would have been a "panic call" move from Australia to add Konstas in the squad. "Now it would almost be a panic call to me... Just stay calm. They drew the last Test. The last two Tests have been a draw and a win, so what is there to panic about," Hughes had told 'The Courier Mail'. Konstas had said earlier this week, "It would be a dream come true (playing the Boxing Day Test)." "Maybe I'd get a little nervous before the game, but I've worked really hard for that. Hopefully, it happens one day, but we'll see." Pacer Jhye Richardson has also been included in the 15-member squad in place of Josh Hazlewood, who has been ruled out due to a calf injury. Richardson, who himself has overcome a series of injuries, has not featured in a Test match since his three

appearances during the 2021-22 Ashes series. "In the absence of Josh Hazlewood, Jhye provides further options in the fast bowling space. It has been pleasing to see his successful return throughout the early part of the domestic summer," Bailey said. Speedster Sean Abbott is also back in the squad for the remaining two games while uncapped Tasmania all-rounder Beau Webster, who was added ahead of the second Test in Adelaide, retains his place in the 15-member group. Australia squad for 4th and 5th Test Pat Cummins (c), Sean Abbott, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Travis Head (vc), Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Jhye Richardson, Steve Smith (vc), Mitchell Starc, Beau Webster.

# Ashwin's desire to evolve all the time made him stand out: Shastri

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Ravichandran Ashwin's constant drive to evolve and excel in his craft, coupled with his focus on self-improvement rather than being concerned about the opponents made him stand out, says former India coach Ravi Shastri. The 38-year-old surprised the cricketing world by announcing his retirement in the middle of the Test series against Australia after the end of the third Test in Brisbane on Wednesday. "What stands out for me was his wanting to evolve all the time. He wasn't the kind of guy satisfied as to where he started," Shastri said on 'The ICC Review'. "For me it was his guile, wanting to excel in his craft and (especially) in the last two-three years the way he got the ball to the way, gave it a rip and got it to dip on the batsman with drift made him stand out," Shastri said. Known for his relentless drive to develop his game,



Ashwin consistently worked on new deliveries and refined his action, even in the later stages of his career. "He wanted new tricks to be learned. He pursued it, practiced hard at it and continued to look for new things as his career progressed, to keep up with the times," Shastri said. "His legacy will be of being a terrific match-winner, a fabulous record, 537 sticks. I mean anyone over 500 (in

Test cricket) is special." Ashwin, who made his debut in 2011 against the West Indies, quickly cemented his place in India's Test side. He retired as India's second-highest wicket-taker with 765 scalps, including 537 in Tests. Ashwin and fellow spinner Ravindra Jadeja often bowled in tandem, leading India to numerous victories. Shastri felt the "spin twins" played a role in each other's success. "And for him to do it in his span and the way he has done it, especially when it came to bowling in the last four or five years, I think in India, along with Jadeja, I think they were a terrific pair, the real spin twins." "They complemented each other well and they spurred each other on, so I would say a lot of Jadeja's wickets in the last five-six years have come because of Ashwin and vice-versa." Shastri highlighted that Ashwin's nearly identical record against left and right handed batters -- 269 wickets against right-handers and 268 against left-handers -- demonstrated just how versatile and effective the spinner was, regardless of the opponent or their playing style. "You look at his record against right-handers, against left-handers, it's pretty much similar, you know, which says it all. It didn't matter to him who he was bowling against. He was up for it," he added.

# Tottenham beats Man United 4-3 in the English League Cup

AP ■ LONDON

Son Heung-min scored a spectacular goal directly from a corner to fire Tottenham into the English League Cup semifinals in a thrilling 4-3 win over Manchester United. Spurs will play Premier League leader Liverpool for a place in the final, and Arsenal was drawn against Newcastle in the other last-four matchup. Son's strike in the 88th minute at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium came as Spurs tried to hold off a dramatic comeback from United, having led 3-0 in the second half. United had pulled it back to 3-2 and was pushing for an equalizer when Son whipped in a curling right-footed shot past goalkeeper Altay Bayindir. "Obviously we made it harder than it should have been, for sure," Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou said and added, "Are you not entertained?" United's players complained Bayindir had been fouled by Tottenham's Lucas Bergvall as Son's shot flew past him. Replays appeared to show contact between the two, but with no VAR at this stage of the competition, there was no chance of a review. Jonny Evans scored again for United in stoppage time, but Spurs held on for the win that had looked all but certain shortly after halftime. Having gone ahead through Dominic Solanke's goal from close range in the 15th, Tottenham took control after the break. Dejan Kulusevski doubled the lead a minute after the restart and Solanke fired in his second in the 54th. United head coach Ruben Amorim made a triple substitution -- bringing on Joshua Zirkzee, Amad Diallo and Kobbie Mainoo. It quickly had an impact with Zirkzee forcing Fraser Forster into a flying save and then capitalizing on a loose pass by the Tottenham goalkeeper to make it 3-1.

# India storm into U19 Women's T20 Asia Cup final

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

A rampaging India extended their unbeaten run at the U19 Women's T20 Asia Cup as they reached the final with a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka in their last Super Four contest here Friday. Aayushi Shukla emerged the wrecker-in-chief with a four-wicket haul as the left-arm spinner conceded only 10 runs in her four overs to help India restrict Sri Lanka to 98 for nine after skipper Niki Prasad opted to bowl. Parunikha Sisodia, who also bowls left-arm spin, chipped in with two scalps. Such was India's domination that only two Sri Lanka batters -- Sumudu Nisansala (21) and captain Manudi Nanayakkara (33) -- could manage double-digit scores.



The Lankan top-order fared poorly with Sanjana Kavindi (9) and Hiruni Hansika (2) staying together for a mere 12 balls. A 22-run fifth-wicket stand between Nanayakkara and Nisansala was the best for the Lankans. They raised hopes of

Lankan fightback by dismissing three Indian batters but opener G Kamalini (28) and Gongadi Trisha (32) ensured that the small run-chase was completed. Once they departed, Mithila Vinod, batting at number seven, carried the side home with her unbeaten 17-run cameo. India overhauled the target with 31 balls to spare. India had thrashed Pakistan by nine wickets in their tournament-opener and then got the better of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka while the contest against Nepal did not yield any result. Brief Scores: Sri Lanka: 98 for 9 in 20 overs. (M Nanayakkara 33, S Nisansala 21; A Shukla 4/10) India: 102 for 6 in 14.5 overs. (G Trisha 32, G Kamalini 28; C Praboda 3/16).

# Tough task awaits Chennaiyin FC against Mumbai City

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Seeking to bridge the gap with the top six, visiting Chennaiyin FC will have their task cut out when they take on fancied hosts Mumbai City FC in their Indian Super League match here on Saturday. The Islanders have an impressive record against Chennaiyin FC, being unbeaten in their last nine ISL meetings. Mumbai have won and drawn twice in their last five matches, and are currently occupying the seventh spot with 17 points from 11 games. Chennaiyin FC are ninth in the table, having garnered 15 points from 12 matches but their previous five outings have seen them succumb to a loss thrice. Neither of them are too far off

the sixth-placed Jamshedpur FC, who have 18 points from 10 matches. The Petr Kratky-coached team have struggled offensively, scoring the fourth-least goals in the season (14) so far, whereas the Marina Machans better them in this metric with 17 strikes. Mumbai City have fared better at the back, keeping the third-most clean sheets (4) in the league, conceding only 13 goals, as opposed to the 18 of the Chennaiyin FC. Mumbai City FC have not conceded in their last three ISL games. If they manage another clean sheet, it will mark their longest streak since 2018. Interestingly, Chennaiyin have netted merely once in their previous three games in the competition.

Mumbai City have hit the woodwork seven times this season, the second-highest tally behind Odisha FC (9 times). Last season, they set a single-season high of 10. While it does show that they are constantly on the lookout for creating chances in the final third, the frontline will have to come together to convert these opportunities with greater consistency. Chennaiyin FC have lost their last two away games, failing to score in both. The last time the Marina Machans went on a longer losing run away from home was a stretch of four games between December 2023 and February 2024, which included a 0-3 loss to Mumbai City FC (December 28, 2023). To get their season back on track, a positive result here would be important.

### भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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NIT No-03/2024-25    CBC 0311/12/0003/2425    Executive Director (HR)

## AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED (A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)

**Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002**

As the loan account became NPA therefore the Authorized officer under section 13(2) of "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002" had issued 60 days demand notice to the borrowers/co-borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors (collectively referred as "Borrowers") as given in the table. According to the notice if the borrowers do not deposit the entire amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from auction of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire loan amount along with future interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of demand notice, otherwise under the provisions of 13(4) and 14 of the said Act, the Authorized officer is free to take possession for sale of the mortgage properties/Secured assets as given below.

Borrowers to note that after receipt of this notice, in terms of Section 13(13) of the Act, 2002, you are prohibited and restrained from transferring any of the secured assets by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without prior written consent of the secured creditor. Borrowers attention are attracted towards Section 13(8) /w/ Rule 3(5) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Act that the borrowers shall be entitled to redeem their secured asset upon the payment of the complete outstanding dues as mentioned below before the publication of auction notice, which thereafter shall cease to exist.

Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrower /Mortgagor/Guarantor/ Loan A/c No.	Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2)	Description of Mortgaged Property
(A/c No.) L9001060119536282 & L9001060822676450 & L900106082749491 & L9001060832108056 Kailash Medical Agency Through It's Proprietor Kailash (Borrower), Vikas Saini (Co-Borrower), Kailash (Co-Borrower), Smt.Pooja (Co-Borrower), Sachan Singh (Co-Borrower), K S Pharma (Co-Borrower)	17-Oct-24 Rs. 911304/- Rs. Nine Lac Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Only & Rs. 870572/- Rs. Eight Lac Seventy Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Two Only & Rs. 1279985/- Rs. Twelve Lac Seventy-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Five Only & Rs. 856612/- Rs. Eight Lac Fifty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Twelve Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At Gali No 3, Kkhasra No 1018, Khatuni No 1441, Keshav Nagar, Narnaul, Dist -Mahendragarh, Haryana Admeasuring 300 Sqyds
(A/c No.) L9001060121247918 & L9001060827178141 Atri Namkeen Enterprises & Ravji Chaudhary (Borrower), Ramveer Smt.Sudesh Devi (Co-Borrower), Ravji Chaudhary (Co-Borrower), Ramveer (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 559457/- Rs. Four Lac Fifty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Seven Only & Rs. 1694621/- Rs. Sixteen Lac Ninety-Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-One Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Khasra No- 48/6, Plot No 87, Northern Pottal, Village Saran, Teh & Dist- Faridabad, Haryana Admeasuring 74.6 Sqyds.
(A/c No.) L9001060122631632 & L9001060826874568 Naveen (Borrower), Smt.Shakuntla (Co-Borrower)	17-Oct-24 Rs. 838211/- Rs. Eight Lac Thirty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty-One Only & Rs. 768685/- Rs. Seven Lac Sixty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Five Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Khewat / Khatta No- 98/111, 99/112, Rect- No. 15, Killa No- 5/2/2 (4-12), 6/1 (4-12), Vill- Dholaagarh, Teh & Dist- Palwal, Haryana Admeasuring 0-7 Marla
(A/c No.) L9001060122994106 & L9001060826441057 Smt.Pooja (Borrower), Khem Chand (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 125193/- Rs. Twelve Lac Fifty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Seven Only & Rs. 281197/- Rs. Two Lac Eighty-One Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Seven Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Mu No 19/1, 21, 22, 23, 24/1, Mu No- 39, Kila No- 1/1, 2/1, 3/2, Mouja- Tilpat, Teh & Dist- Faridabad, Haryana Admeasuring 64 Sqyds.
(A/c No.) L9001060123246719 Pratap Singh (Borrower), Smt.Anita (Co-Borrower), Manish Bedi (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 1659013/- Rs. Sixteen Lac Fifty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Document No 28696, Waka Siwana Narsingpur, Dist- Gurgaon, Haryana Admeasuring 85.5 Sq.Yds
(A/c No.) L9001060123623318 Gokuldeep (Borrower), Har Pal (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 2023262/- Rs. Twenty Lac Twelve Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Two Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Khasra No 79/4/7, 9/1/19/2, 20/21, 22/1, 93/2/1, 3/1/3/2/1, 4/1, 6, 15, 94/1, 2/1, 9/2, 10, 11/1, 287, 268 And 269, Manethi, Dist- Rewari, Haryana Admeasuring 835 Sq.Yds
(A/c No.) L9001060826790840 Balaji Parking (Borrower), Har Pal (Co-Borrower), Bal Gobind (Co-Borrower)	17-Oct-24 Rs. 681716/- Rs. Six Lac Eighty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Sixteen Only As on 16-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Khasra No 79/4/7, 9/1/19/2, 20/21, 22/1, 93/2/1, 3/1/3/2/1, 4/1, 6, 15, 94/1, 2/1, 9/2, 10, 11/1, 287, 268 And 269, Manethi, Teh. & Dist.- Rewari, Haryana Admeasuring 835 Sq Yds
(A/c No.) L9001060123878520 Vijay Kumar (Borrower), Madan Lal (Co-Borrower), Smt.Roshni Devi (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 203286/- Rs. Two Lac Three Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Six Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At -Plot Of Roshni, Property No W01/0205, Regar Mohalla, Gali No 1/30, Ward No 01, Ellenabad, Dist-Sirsa, Haryana Admeasuring 102.22 Sqyds
(A/c No.) L9001070529856462 & L9001070123921060 Sunil Kumar (Borrower), Smt.Meena Rani (Co-Borrower)	23-Oct-24 Rs. 663143/- Rs Six Lac Sixty-Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Three Only & Rs. 720516/- Rs Seven Lac Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen Only As on 23-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Khewat No 117 Khatoni No 144 Kitta 5, H 132, Gali No 3 R K Puram, Vill - Mangalpur, District- Karnal, Haryana Admeasuring 105 Sq Yrd
(A/c No.) L9001060125971972 Tilakraj (Borrower), Smt.Ekta (Co-Borrower)	17-Oct-24 Rs. 2618967/- Rs. Twenty-Six Lac Eighty Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Seven Only As on 16-Oct-24	Property Situated At Khewat / Khata No 174/183, Mustil No 20, Killa No 3/2 (6-04/2(6-9)), Bas Kushla, Tehsil - Harasara, Dist - Gurgaon, Haryana Admeasuring Area 222 Sqyds
(A/c No.) L9001060129347161 Sadhuram Tybist (Borrower), Gurpreet Singh (Co-Borrower), Gola Ram (Co-Borrower), Sadhuram (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 198476/- Rs. One Lac Ninety-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Six Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Khewat No928, Khatoni No 1173 Kitta 2, Village Ratia, District. Fatehabad, Haryana Admeasuring 332.75 Sq Yrd
(A/c No.) L9001060129737981 Ankit Marker (Borrower), Smt.Bimla Devi (Co-Borrower), Ankit (Co-Borrower), Smt.Banesh Devi (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 1577855/- Rs. Fifteen Lac Seventy-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Five Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Khewat No 162, Khatuani No 185, Mustali No 67, Killa No 28/2 (13-13), Village- Bawal, Dist- Rewari, Haryana Admeasuring 205 Sq.Yds
(A/c No.) L9001060133544592 Har Har Gangue Washing Point (Borrower), Smt.Savitri (Co-Borrower), Azad Singh (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 1311418/- Rs. Thirteen Lac Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Gram Panchayat-Khata No. 324, Min. 325 Min. Khewat No. 291, Kitta 28, Village -Bhaiswan Khurd, Tehsil- Gohana, Dist-Sonapat, Haryana Admeasuring 402 Square Yard
(A/c No.) L9001060131655586 Satguru & Company (Borrower), Sandeep Kumar (Co-Borrower), Ramesh Kumar (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 1405458/- Rs. Fourteen Lac Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Eight Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At - Khewat No.513 Khata No.550 Mustali No.99 Killa No.3/9-0-16 Khewat No.514 Khata No.551 Mustali No.99 Killa No.3/5-0-16 3/6-0-8 3/7-0-4 3/8-0-4, Mauja-Salawas, Vill. & Dist. -Jhajjar, Haryana, Admeasuring 462 Sq. Yrd.
(A/c No.) L9001060131666941 Rinku Chicken Corner (Borrower), Rinku (Co-Borrower), Smt.Manisha Devi (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 270931/- Rs. Two Lac Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-One Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At-Lal Dora Property-House Uid No 5843700004000R064A, Plot Of Rinku, Deh Of Village- Murtzapur, Pehowa, Dist- Kurukshetra, Haryana Admeasuring 73.3 Square Metre
(A/c No.) L9001060131852383 Om Prakash Traders (Borrower), Om Prakash (Co-Borrower), Om Prakash (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 1023243/- Rs. Five Lac Fifty-Three Thousand Forty-Three Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At - H No 147, Waka Rakha Sunder Mohalla, Old City Sonapat Tehsil And District - Sonapat, Haryana Admeasuring 66.5 Sq. Yrd.
(A/c No.) L9001060134406432 Arun Kumar (Borrower), Nishant Verma (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 1032348/- Rs. Ten Lac Thirty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Eight Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At - Khasra No 215/3/1-0-13, Bannikhera, Tah.-Palwal, Dist.-Faridabad, Haryana Admeasuring 400 Sq. Yrd.
(A/c No.) L9001060135128472 Bhanu Prakash (Borrower), Satyaprakash (Co-Borrower), Vimal Prakash (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 965821/- Rs. Nine Lac Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At - Shop No 118 A B C/7, Ward No 12 - Near Main Market Gurgaon, Tah.-Solna, Dist. -Gurgaon, Haryana Admeasuring 16 Sq. Yrd.
(A/c No.) L900106013841111 Nitesh Thakran (Borrower), Ramchander Thakran (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 1029672/- Rs. Ten Lac Twenty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Two Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Khewat Khata No 884/1081 Must No 89 Killa No 16113-3 Kitta 1, Waka Siwana Itharsua, Temple Shri, Wazirabad, Distt- Gurgaon, Haryana Admeasuring 118 Sqyd
(A/c No.) L9001060140412150 Chalia Aluminium Door (Borrower), Parveen Kumar (Co-Borrower), Smt.Rajbala (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 Rs. 559649/- Rs. Five Lac Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Nine Only As on 10-Oct-24	Property Situated At- Khatuani No 1922 Khewat No 1673, Tehsil- Fatehabad, Distt- Fatehabad, Haryana Admeasuring 363 Sqyd

Place: HARYANA    Date : 20-12-2024    Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited