

# SC: Leak is clear, far-fetched to assume all pupils involved

Won't be proper to order re-test if breach confined to specific centres

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G  
New Delhi, July 8

**THE SUPREME COURT** on Monday said it was clear a leak has taken place in the NEET (UG) 2024 examination and self denial is only adding to the problem, but a retest depends on whether the alleged breach was at a systemic level and affected the integrity of the entire process, and whether it was possible to segregate the beneficiaries of the fraud from the untainted students.

"The fact that the sanctity of the examination has been breached... compromised, is beyond doubt. Now the question is how widespread is a breach," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said Monday hearing petitions of those seeking and opposing cancellation of the May 5 NEET UG exams over paper leak allegations.

The CJ-led Supreme Court bench — also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra — said it may be far-fetched for it to at least presume, unless the government and its agencies point out material to it, that all 2.3 million students or a substantial number of them are involved in the fraud. "For all we know, a large number of students may be honest..." said Chandrachud. The bench conveyed anguish if the exam is to be cancelled.

The Supreme Court fixed the matter for a further hearing on July 11 and said it would decide on the merits after the government, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and the National Testing Agency (NTA) file their response to its queries. The NTA conducts the NEET UG exams and the CBI has been probing cases linked to the alleged leaks. It directed the Centre, the NTA and the CBI to file



Members of the India Youth Front, an umbrella group representing youth wings of the opposition INDIA bloc parties, stage a protest over alleged irregularities in NEET at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Monday

their affidavits by 5 pm on July 10 and share these with the petitioners as well.

"If we are not able to identify candidates who are guilty of wrongdoing, the retest has to be ordered. If you can't distinguish the grain from the chaff, tainted from the untainted, it has to be ordered. On the other hand, we are now dealing with the situation of 2.3 million students. It may be far-fetched for us to at least presume, unless they point out material to us, that all 2.3 lakh students or a substantial number of them are involved in the fraud. For all we know, a large number of students may be honest..." said Chandrachud. The consequence of the leak depended on the nature of the leak, he said. "...before we decide to order a retest...we are conscious of the fact that we are dealing with the careers of 2.3 million students. Asking 2.3 million students to reappear for an examination together with the preparation, cost travel, and dislocation of admissions schedule..." the CJ said.

In its order, the court said the law on whether a retest should be ordered is based on fairly settled parameters: the court would have to scrutinise on the basis of the data which has

emerged whether...whether the alleged breach has taken place at the systemic level...whether the breach is of a nature which has affected the integrity of the entire exam process and...whether it is possible to segregate the beneficiaries of the fraud from the untainted students.

"In a situation where breach in the sanctity of an examination affects the entirety of the process, and if segregation of beneficiaries of wrongdoing cannot be separated from others, then it may be necessary to order a retest. On the contrary, where the breach is confined to specific areas or centres and it is possible to identify those who are beneficiaries of wrongdoing, it may not be appropriate to order a retest, particularly of an examination which has been conducted on such a massive scale involving over 2.3 million students," the Supreme Court said. "We are of the view that an order on merits would have to be deferred. NTA is directed to make full disclosure before the court...in three areas — nature of leak, places where the leak took place, and the lag of time between leak and conduct of the exam," the court said.

It asked the NTA to clarify

"when the leak first took place, the manner in which the question papers leaked were disseminated" and "the time duration between the occurrence of leak and the exam on May 5".

The top court also asked the CBI to file a report on the investigation's status as of Monday, July 8, and on material that has come to light until now.

It asked the NTA to inform the court about the steps taken to identify the leak's beneficiaries, the steps taken to identify the centres/cities where the leak took place, the modalities followed to identify the leak's beneficiaries, and how the leak was disseminated. The court also asked the Centre and the NTA to inform whether it would be feasible to use data analytics to identify suspect cases and segregate tainted students from untainted ones. It would be necessary for the government to set up a multi-disciplinary team of renowned experts to ensure due measures are taken to obviate any future breaches, the Supreme Court said.

The bench asked the government to inform it about the constitution of the committee so that the court could take a call on whether there needed to be any additions to it.

## Bengal govt recovers unused land of industry

INAMOVE to address the shortage of industrial land, the West Bengal government on Monday announced the recovery of around 500 acres from previously closed industrial units.

Speaking at the unveiling of INDPLAS'25, an international plastics exhibition, state industry minister Shashi Panja said those recovered land parcels are now directly available for allocation through the department's land bank. "Efforts are underway to identify similar unused land parcels along state and national highways," Panja added, emphasizing that reclaiming such plots is an ongoing process.

This initiative follows chief minister Mamata Banerjee's earlier announcement regarding the government's intention to reclaim unused land designated for industrial purposes.

Meanwhile, Lalit Agrawal, president of the Indian Plastics Federation, highlighted the robust growth of the state's plastic industry, currently experiencing a rate of 12-15% compared to the national average of 6-7%. Ashok Jajodia, chairman of the exhibition, emphasized the need for a deep-sea port to facilitate the import of raw materials and export of finished products. —PTI

# Sebi limits passive MF schemes investing in sponsor group firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, July 8

**PASSIVE MUTUAL FUND** schemes cannot invest more than 25% of their net assets in the listed securities of the sponsor's group companies, according to the new prudential norms notified by market regulator Sebi on Monday for such schemes.

Sebi announced new measures to streamline the prudential norms applicable to investments by passively managed mutual fund schemes in the group companies of their sponsors. The market regulator had constituted a working group to review the regulatory framework under Sebi (Mutual Fund) rules. Pursuant to public consultation on the recommendations of the working group in the Mutual Funds Advisory Committee (MFAC), Sebi decided to "streamline" the extant prudential norms, and the regulator said.

In a circular issued on Monday, under the new framework, mutual fund schemes, excluding equity-oriented exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and index funds, are restricted from

## TWEAKS NORMS

■ Under the new framework, mutual fund schemes are restricted from investing more than 25% of their net assets in listed securities of the sponsor's group companies

■ Sebi had constituted a working group to review the regulatory framework under Sebi (mutual fund) rules

investing more than 25% of their net assets in the listed securities of the sponsor's group companies.

For equity-oriented ETFs and index funds, investments in accordance with the weightage of the constituents of the underlying index, but are capped at 35% of the net asset value of the scheme in the sponsor's group companies.

To ensure transparency, Sebi has defined "widely tracked and non-bespoke indices" as those with collective assets under management (AUM) of ₹20,000 crore

and above, tracked by passive funds or serving as primary benchmarks for active funds. The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) will update and publish the list of such indices biannually, on April 15 and October 15, based on AUM data as of March 31 and September 30, respectively. The first list of these indices, effective June 30, 2024, includes prominent indices such as Nifty 50, BSE Sensex, among others.

Passive schemes not aligned with these indices will be rebalanced within 30 business days from the date of issuance of this circular. "In cases where the portfolios of such schemes are not rebalanced within this period justification in writing, including details of efforts taken to rebalance the portfolio will be placed before the Investment Committee of the AMC.

"The investment committee, if so desired, can extend the timeline for rebalancing up to 60 business days from the date of completion of mandated rebalancing period, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in the circular.

# In prestige battle, Anurag Thakur goes all out to reverse Hamirpur setback

SAURABH PARASHAR  
Shimla, July 8

**BJP MP FROM** Hamirpur and former Union minister Anurag Thakur has been camping in his constituency in Himachal Pradesh for several days, leading the campaign in the bypolls for three Assembly seats in the state, which are scheduled for July 10.

Two of these seats — Dehra and Hamirpur — fall within the Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency being represented by Thakur for five consecutive terms since 2008. Prior to that, Thakur's father, Prem Kumar Dhmal, the former Himachal Pradesh chief minister, had represented the constituency three times.

Nalagarh, the third seat bound for bypolls, is part of the Shimla Lok Sabha constituency.

On Saturday, Thakur was in Dehra, where he held various meetings as part of his campaign for BJP candidate Hoshy Singh Chambyal.

Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur is making her electoral debut from the Dehra seat on the Congress's ticket.

Apart from Dehra, Sukhu has also stepped up his campaign for the Congress candidates in two other seats. He is seeing these bypolls as a prestige battle as he hails from Hamirpur district's Nadaun, which he also represents in the Assembly. Deputy chief minister Mukesh Agnihotri's Haroli seat also falls in the same district.

The bypolls were necessitated as these seats fell vacant after three independent MLAs — who had voted in favour of BJP nominee in the February Rajya Sabha polls, Harsh Mahajan — resigned and went on to join the BJP. They have been fielded by

the BJP from their respective seats for the bypolls — K.L. Sharma from Hamirpur, K.L. Thakur from Nalagarh, and Hoshy Singh Chambyal from Dehra. Sukhu is aiming to clinch these bypolls so as to send out a message about the Congress's hold in the state amid discontent in the party.

In February this year, six of the Congress MLAs had turned rebel and cross-voted for Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya Sabha polls. They were suspended from the party. The elections to their seats were held along with the state's four parliamentary constituencies in the final phase of the Lok Sabha polls on June 1.

Of these six Assembly seat bypolls, the Congress won four as against the BJP's two. Four of these six seats were part of the Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat, of which the Congress won three and the BJP got one.

This boosted the Congress's tally in the state Assembly, which is now 38 in the current 65-member House as compared to the BJP's 27. Sukhu has since emerged stronger, even as he needs some more bypoll wins to further consolidate the Congress's ticket.



date the Congress government — and his position — in the state. It is another matter that the BJP again bagged all four Lok Sabha seats in the state.

On his part, Thakur wants to ensure the BJP's victory in the bypolls to send out a signal that he continues to hold sway in the Hamirpur region and could pull off wins in the Assembly seats too.

In the Lok Sabha elections, while Thakur defeated Congress candidate Satpal Raizada with a margin of 182,000 votes in Hamirpur and got leads in all its 17 Assembly segments, this could not then translate in the bypolls held in his constituency simultaneously. Then, the Congress's Rakesh Kalia won from Gagret, defeating the BJP's Chaitanya Sharma by 8,487 votes. The Congress's Capt Ranjeet Singh clinched Sujanpur seat by defeating the BJP's Rajinder Rana by 2,440 votes. In Kutlehar, Vivek Sharma of the Congress trounced the BJP's Davinder Bhutto by 5,356 votes.

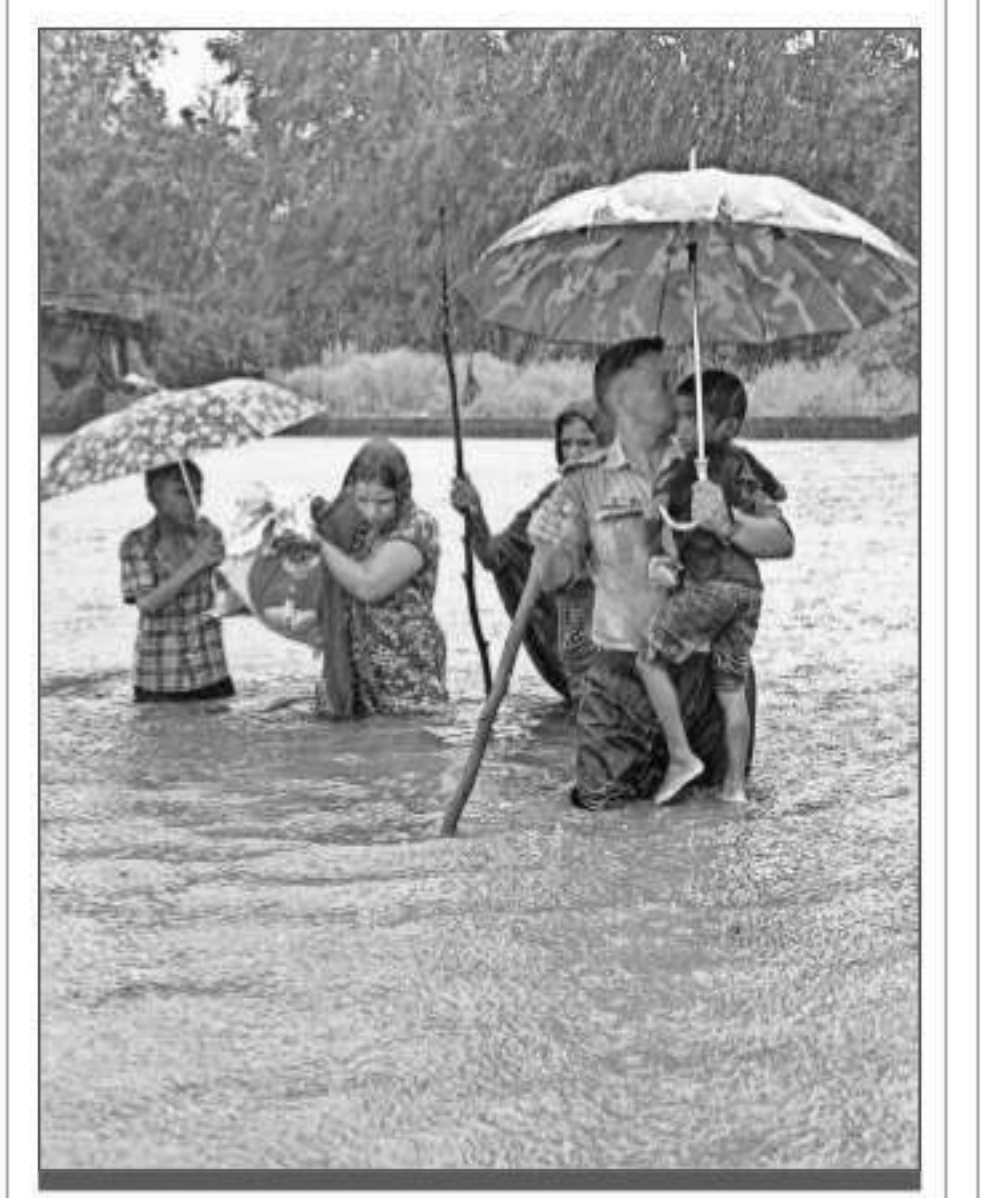
A senior BJP leader admits that the BJP's losses in the June 1 bypolls were a blow to the party. "The defeat of the BJP candidates in three Assembly constituencies within the Hamirpur parliamentary seat, where Anurag Thakur had garnered considerable votes, was discussed at length during various post-election review meetings of the party. Serious discussions were held to analyse why Thakur managed to get leads in these Assembly segments, but the Assembly bypoll candidates did not."

Another BJP leader said the party performed poorly in the June 1 bypolls due to "resentment among the BJP cadre who were unhappy about inducting Congress rebels and turncoats into the party fold."

## Free education for poor girls

**THE MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT** on Monday said higher education for girls from economically weaker sections and OBC groups will be free. The announcement is being seen as a major women-oriented sop ahead of the Assembly polls later this year. —PTI

## MONSOON MAYHEM



People shift from a flooded area to a relief camp following heavy rains in Udhm Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand, on Monday. Several villages in Champawat and Udhm Singh Nagar districts were under water. However, the Char Dham Yatra in the state resumed on Monday after remaining suspended for a day in view of heavy rain forecasts

SOMA PAPERS AND INDUSTRIES LIMITED	
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): L21093MH1991PLC064085 Registered Office: Unit No 8A, 1st Floor, Plot No. 212, Mohatta Bhuvan, Laxminarsigh Papan Marg, Off Dr. E. Moses Road, Gandhi Nagar Worli, Mumbai - 400018 Tel: 9849296648; Email: cssomagapers91@gmail.com; Website: https://www.somagapers.in	
Recommendations of the Committee of Independent Directors (CID) on the Open Offer to the Shareholders of the Soma Papers and Industries Limited ("Target Company") under Regulation 26(7) of SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 in relation to the open offer made by Acquirer and PACs:	
Date	8th July 2024
Name of the Target Company (TC)	Soma Papers and Industries Limited
Details of the Offer pertaining to Target Company	Open offer to acquire upto 3,64,559 (Three Lakh Sixty-Four Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty-Nine) Fully Paid Up Equity Shares of INR 10 (INR Ten) each representing 26.00 % of the voting equity share capital of Target Company at a price of INR12 (INR Twelve only) per equity share from the public shareholders in terms of SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011
Name(s) of the Acquirer and PACs	Mr. Narasimharao Anumala (Acquirer), Mr. Anumala Ramesh Chaudary (PAC-1) and Ms. Anupama Anumala (PAC-2)
Name of the Manager to the offer	CIL Securities Limited Address: 214, Raghava Ratna Towers, Chirag Ali Lane, Abids, Hyderabad - 500001
Members of the Committee of Independent Directors	Mr. G. Shivashankar Reddy (Chairperson), Mr. Dharmesh Shantilal Shah and Mr. Prabhakar Reddy P
IDC Member's relationship with the TC (Director, Equity shares owned, any other contract / relationship), if any	All IDC Members are non-executive and independent Directors of the Target Company. None of the Members of IDC holds any equity shares in the Target Company. None of them have entered into any contract or have other relationship with the Target Company.
Trading in the Equity shares/other securities of the Target Company by IDC Members	IDC Members have confirmed that they have not traded in equity shares of the Target Company from the date of Public Announcement till the date of this recommendations.
IDC Member's relationship with the Acquirer and PACs (Director, Equity shares owned, any other contract / relationship), if any.	None of the IDC Members have any relationship with the Acquirer and PACs.
Trading in the Equity shares/other securities of the Acquirer and PACs by IDC Members	Not Applicable (As Acquirer and PACs are Individual)
Recommendation on the Open offer, as to whether the offer is fair and reasonable	Based on review of the Offer Documents issued by the Manager to the offer on behalf of Acquirer and PACs, IDC Members believes that the Open Offer is fair and reasonable and in line with SEBI (SAST) Regulations. However, the shareholders should independently evaluate the Offer, the market performance of the equity shares, review Letter of Offer dated 4th July, 2024 including Risk Factors described therein and take informed decision in this matter.
Summary of reasons for recommendation	Based on the review of Public Announcement, Detailed Public Statement and Letter of Offer, the IDC is of opinion that the Offer Price of INR 12 per equity share, offered by the Acquirer and PACs is in line with the regulation prescribed by SEBI under the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, 2011 and prima facie appears to be justified. The Committee considered the following facts: 1) The Equity Shares of the Company are infrequently traded on BSE within the meaning of Regulation 2(11)(j) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. 2) The Fair Value of the Equity Shares of the Target Company, as arrived by CA Gopavarapu Murali Reddy, Registered Valuer (Registration No: IB-BI/RV/02/2019/11566) [Valuer] vide their certificate dated 11th March, 2024, is INR 4.69 per equity share. 3) The Offer Price of INR 12 (INR Twelve Only) per equity share of INR 10 each is justified in terms of Regulation 8(1) and 8(2) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. Keeping in view, the above facts, IDC is of the view that the price of this Open Offer is fair and reasonable. However, the shareholders should independently evaluate the Offer and take informed decision in this matter.
Disclosure of Voting Pattern	These recommendations have been unanimously approved by the IDC Members
Details of Independent Advisors, if any	None
Any other matter(s) to be highlighted	None
To the best of our knowledge and belief, after making proper enquiry the information contained in or accompanying this statement is, in all material respect, true and correct and not misleading, whether by omission of any information or otherwise, and includes all the information required to be disclosed by the Target Company under the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. Capitalized terms used in this announcement, but not defined, shall have the same meaning assigned to them in the PA, DPS and LOF.	
For Soma Papers and Industries limited Place: Mumbai Date: 08 July 2024 Sd/- Mr. G. Shivashankar Reddy Chairperson - Committee of Independent Director	

**ORIENTAL CARBON & CHEMICALS LIMITED**  
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - L24297GJ1978PLC133845  
Regd. Off: Plot No. 30-33, Survey No. 77, Nishant Park, Nana Kapaya, Mundra, Kachchh, Gujarat-370415  
Email: ooclnoida@ooclinidia.com; Website: www.ooclinidia.com

**NOTICE OF THE 44TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION**

NOTICE is hereby given that the 44th Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the Members of the Company will be held on **Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 10.00 a.m. IST through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM")** facility in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, Rules framed thereunder and General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, and subsequent circulars issued in this regard by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA"), the latest being 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 (collectively referred to as "MCA Circulars") and Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") vide its Circular Nos. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022 and SEBI/HO/CFD/POD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated January 5, 2023 and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-POD-2/P/CIR/2023/167 dated October 7, 2023 ('SEBI Circulars') issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (collectively referred to as "SEBI Circulars") without the physical presence of the Members at the AGM venue. Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from July 24, 2024 to July 30, 2024 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of ascertaining the eligibility of the members for the Final Dividend for the year ended March 31, 2024 @ Rs. 7/- (Rupees Seven only) per Equity Share, to be declared at the AGM of the Company.

The Notice of the 44th AGM and the Annual Report of the Company including the financial statements for the financial year ended March 31, 2024 ("Annual Report") has been sent only by email to those Members, whose email addresses are registered with the Company or with the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, namely, Link Intime India Private Limited ("RTA" or "LI IPL") or with their respective Depository Participants ("Depository"), in accordance with the MCA Circulars and the SEBI Circulars, on July 08, 2024. The requirements of sending physical copy of the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report to the Members have been dispensed with vide the MCA Circulars/s and SEBI circulars.

In line with the MCA Circulars and SEBI Circulars, the Notice of the AGM has been uploaded on the website of the Company at [www.ooclinidia.com](http://www.ooclinidia.com). The Notice can also be accessed from the websites of the Stock Exchanges, namely, National Stock Exchange (NSE) at [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), and the AGM Notice is also on the website of LIPL (Agency for providing the Remote e-Voting facility) at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>.

The remote e-Voting period begins on July 27, 2024 at 09:00 a.m. (IST) and ends on July 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (IST). During this period, Members of the Company, holding shares in the physical or dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of Tuesday, July 23, 2024, may cast their vote by remote e-voting. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.

Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes Member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice and holding shares as on the cut-off date i.e. Tuesday, July 23, 2024 may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at [enotices@linkintime.co.in](mailto:enotices@linkintime.co.in) or [kolkata@linkintime.co.in](mailto:kolkata@linkintime.co.in).

Members who would like to express their views/ask questions during the Meeting may register themselves as a speaker by sending their request 7 days in advance mentioning their name, demat account number/folio number, email id, mobile number at [investorfeedback@ooclinidia.com](mailto:investorfeedback@ooclinidia.com).

Members holding shares in physical form who have not registered their email addresses with the Company / Company's RTA / Depository, can get the same registered and obtain Notice of the AGM of the Company along with the Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2024 and / or login details for joining the AGM of the Company through VC /OAVM facility including e-voting, by sending scanned copy of the following documents by email to the Company's RTA's email i.d., viz. [kolkata@linkintime.co.in](mailto:kolkata@linkintime.co.in) or Company's email id., viz. [investorfeedback@ooclinidia.com](mailto:investorfeedback@ooclinidia.com).

- a signed request letter mentioning your Name, Folio Number and Complete Address, mobile number and email address to be registered;
- self attested scanned copy of the PAN Card;
- self attested scanned copy of any document (such as Aadhar Card, Driving License, Voter Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the Member as registered with the Company.

In case members have any queries regarding e-voting, they may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and InstaVote e-Voting manual available at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>, under Help section or send an email to [enotices@linkintime.co.in](mailto:enotices@linkintime.co.in) or contact on: Tel: 022-4918 6000.

The afore-mentioned information is being issued for the information and benefit of all the Members of the Company and is in compliance with the MCA Circulars and the SEBI Circular.

For Oriental Carbon & Chemicals Limited  
Sd/-  
Gourab Kumar Nayak  
Company Secretary

Place: NOIDA  
Date: 09.07.2024