**OPINION 6** 

DO NOT LET GO OF

**WORLD 9** 

23 SOLDIERS KILLED IN TERROR

**MONEY 10** 

'MANY UNAWARE THAT THEY LOST

**Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR** RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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**EXCITED TO** WORK WITH NGIDI, SHAMSI: BOND 12 SPORTS

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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# PM Modi slays Congress on money heist Ayodhya ascends as industrial powerhouse

 $P^{\text{rime Minister Narendra Modi}}_{\text{on Tuesday invoked a popular}}$ crime series to assail the Congress on the recovery of more than ₹350 crore from premises linked to its MP Dhiraj Prasad Sahu. This is the second time in a week that Modi has taken on the Congress on the huge recovery of cash amount from Sahu.

The Prime Minister made the remarks in reaction to a social media post by the BJP. The post featured a video showing pictures of Sahu with senior Congress leaders, including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. It also displayed the piles of cash recovered during Income Tax raids on premises linked to the Jharkhand MP.

The BJP captioned the video "Congress presents the Money Heist!" while the series popular title song plays in the background.

"In Ĭndia, who needs 'Money Heist' fiction, when you have the Congress Party, whose heists are legendary for 70 years and counting," the Prime Minister said in his post.

The cash seizure in the Income Tax department's searches against Odisha-based Boudh Distillery Private Limited owned by the family of Sahu — the Congress' Rajya Sabha MP has been calculated at ₹351 crore and is the "highest-ever" haul in a single action by any probe agency in the country, official sources said.



Last Friday when the huge haul was reported, Modi had taken similar swipe at the Opposition on the issue of corruption. asserting it is "Modi's guarantee" that they will have to return every penny "looted" from people. The PM had tagged a news report of the Income Tax department recovering at that time ₹200 crore in cash from various locations of the Jharkhand MP.

The Congress though issued a notice seeking explanation from Sahu the party said it's the MP's internal matter and not that of the party as he is a businessman for more than four decades.

Hitting out at the INDIA Bloc. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said the Modi Government's resolve to take tough action against corruption with renewed vigour is the only reason for Opposition leaders to unite and step up their attack on Central probe agencies. The INDIA Bloc parties have given a guarded response on the huge haul of currency from their partner's

Addressing a Press conference, Rijiju and BJP leaders Sangita Singhdeo, Rameshwar Teli and Nisith Pramanik said the haul of ₹351 crore from premises linked to Congress MP Sahu was not a one-off.

There are cases against leaders of Opposition parties, including those from Bihar, West Bengal Rajasthan and Delhi, they added. "The very many 'shops of corruption' opened by the Congress should be shut down. Strict action is being taken," Rijiju told reporters.

"It would not be wrong to say

that the coming together of the INDIA alliance has nothing to do with democracy but it's a union of corrupt people for the betterment of the corrupt by the corrupt people," he added.

"The Congress should be called the corruption party because the Congress is the root of corruption," Rijiju said.
Rijiju said ₹42 crore was

recovered from the relative of a Congress leader in Bengaluru; in West Bengal, several Ministers in Mamata Banerjee Government are involved in corruption; in Tamil Nadu, "staunchly honest (kattar imandar)" has found several of

its leaders in jail.
Rijiju said Modi gave several guarantees to the people to make India a developed nation by 2047, make it the third largest economy in the world, and ensure that the Government benefits reach the public.

"Another guarantee was action against every corrupt persons. That is why you must have seen Congress leader Rahul and his friends hate Modi a lot. The anger is because of the strong action against corruption," he said.

Rijiju said corruption increased during the Congress regimes because the party believes in the principle of perpetuating corrupt practices.

"Congress leaders include in

"Congress leaders indulge in corrupt practices and also encourage others to do so. It is their policy ... to loot and let others loot," the senior BJP leader said.

He said the voters rejected the Congress in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan after several of their scams came to light.

Asked about the cash seizure, senior Congress leader and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram said, "I have not seen ₹350 crore in my life. In fact, if you ask me, how many zeros are there, I will have to count. The Congress party has clearly said the party has nothing to do with the cash that was seized and only Sahu, the gentleman allegedly concerned has to explain the position."

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE/PNS** ■ LUCKNOW

SUMSTANS

🕇n a groundbreaking move, Ayodhya is set to witness a massive economic transformation with the largest-ever investment in a single district in India. British conglomerate Trafalgar Square Capital has pledged a staggering ₹75,000 crore to establish cutting-edge defence manufacturing units in Ayodhya.

The landmark decision was cemented through the signing of five Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the company and local authorities.

Trafalgar Square Capital is among the five major multinational companies expressing keen interest in Uttar Pradesh under the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy. The distinguished list includes the Hong Kong-based Taushan International Group, RG Group, Austin Consulting Group, Cosis Group, Indo European Chamber of Small and Medium Enterprises, Britain's Trafalgar Square Capital Group, ABC Cleantech, and Unicorn Energy from Germany.

Trafalgar Square Capital's strategic choice of Ayodhya for its ambitious venture is set to have a profound impact on the region's economic landscape. The colossal investment is expected to generate a substantial employment boost, creating at least 26,000 new jobs.

Notably, this investment in defence manufacturing units breaks new ground, occurring outside the conventional defence corridor. The ₹75,000 crore investment in a single district is unprecedented in the country, highlighting Ayodhya's emergence as a key player in the



industrial sector. Germany's Unicorn Energy is also set

to make substantial investments in Uttar Pradesh, venturing into Lucknow and Jaunpur with two solar energy projects valued at approximately ₹42,000 crore. These initiatives are projected to employ around 2,200 individuals, further contributing to the State's economic growth. Adding to the solar energy influx, the GMR Group has sealed an MoU worth ₹40,000 crore for solar energy investment, with the specific location yet to be determined.

The Aditya Birla Group is set to infuse ₹25,000 crore into the State economy by establishing a large textile and readymade unit, promising significant contributions to the local contributions to manufacturing sector.

In another significant development, the Hinduja Group has committed ₹25,000 crore to ventures in the film, media, and solar energy sectors, building on their earlier agreement with Ashok Leyland for electric vehicle production.

Continued on Page 2

### Jaishankar discusses **Gaza situation with Israeli counterpart**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

s Israel-Hamas conflict continues, A External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday spoke to Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen and later said "Discussed the Gaza situation, Lebanon maritime traffic in the region. Will continue to remain in touch." The phone conversation came two days after Jaishankar spoke to Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh.

"Just spoke to Israeli Foreign Minister @elicoh1. Discussed the Gaza situation, Lebanon and safety of maritime traffic in the region. Will continue to remain in touch," the External Affairs Minister posted on X. Israel has continued its military offensive in Gaza as part of its retaliation to the unprecedented attack on Israeli cities by Hamas on October 7. Hamas killed around 1,200 people in Israel and kidnapped more than 220 others some of whom were released during a brief ceasefire. Around 17,000 people have been killed in Gaza in the Israeli offensive, according to the Hamas-

India has been calling for de-escalation of the situation and create conditions for an early resumption of direct peace negotiations towards a two-State solution to the Palestine issue. India has strongly condemned the terror attack by Hamas. There have been concerns over the safety of maritime traffic in the region. A missile reportedly fired by Yemen's Houthi militants hit a commercial tanker in the Red Sea off the coast of Yemen on

run authorities in Gaza.

late Monday, triggering concerns. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jaishankar have raised concerns over the deteriorating situation arising out of the conflict and have repeatedly called for "restraint and de-escalation".

Continued on Page 2



### Not possible to collect data of illegal migrants, **Centre informs SC**

 $T^{\text{he Centre has told the Supreme}}_{\text{Court that it is not possible to col-}}$ lect data of illegal migrants living in various parts of the country as entry of foreign nationals is clandestine and surreptitious.

In its affidavit filed in the top court which is examining the constitutional validity of section 6A of the Citizenship Act relating to illegal immigrants in Assam, the Centre said 17,861 people have been granted citizenship under the provision

Answering the court's query posed on December 7, the Centre said 32,381 people have been detected as foreigners under the orders of foreigners tribunal with reference to the period of 1966-1971.

Replying to the court's query about the estimated inflow of illegal immigrants into India, including but not confined to Assam after March 25, 1971, the Centre said illegal immigrants enter the country without valid travel documents in a clandestine and surreptitious manner.

The detection, detention and deportation of such illegally staying foreign nationals is a complex ongoing process. Since entry of such foreign nationals into the country is clandestine and surreptitious, it is not possible to collect accurate data of such illegal immigrants living in various parts of the country," the Centre said.

The Government said in the past five-years from 2017 to 2022, 14,346 foreigners were deported.

Giving some figures, the Centre said 100 foreigners tribunal are presently working in Assam and as on October 31, 2023, more than 3.34 lakh cases have been disposed of and still 97,714

are pending as on October 31. It said the number of cases pending before the Gauhati High Court, arising from the orders of the Foreigners Tribunal are 8,461 as on December 1, 2023. The Government gave details about the working of the Assam Police, fencing of borders, border patrols and other mechanisms adopted to dissuade infiltration.

**Continued on Page 2** 

# **BJP picks Rajasthan Chief Minister**

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Ending the nine-day suspense, the BJP on Tuesday sprang another surprise by naming first time MLA from Sanganer, Bhajan Lal Sharma (56), as Rajasthan Chief Minister after selecting Mohan Yadav and Vishnu Deo Sai as Ministers of Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

respectively. Diya Kumari, a member of the erstwhile Jaipur royal family, is a two-time MLA and one-time MP and Prem Chand Bairwa, a Dalit face in the BJP, will be the Deputy Chief Ministers and Vasudev Devnani the Speaker of the State Assembly.

The announcement came nine days after the party registered a resounding victory in the Assembly elections, overthrowing the ruling Congress led by Ashok

Sharma's appointment marks an end to a 25-year-old trend where the State only witnessed Gehlot and senior BJP leader Vasundhara Raje taking turns to rule the State. Sharma later met Governor Kalraj Mishra Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra and staked claim to form the next Government in the State. BJP State president CP Joshi presented a letter to the Governor, informing him that Sharma has been elected as the leader of the BJP legislature party in the State, according to a Raj Bhawan statement.

Sharma was accompanied by senior BJP leader and party



Newly-elected Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma with his deputies Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa, newly-elected State Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani and Rajasthan BJP president CP Joshi during BJP Legislature Party meeting, in Jaipur, Tuesday

central observer Rajnath Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and former Chief Minister Raje, Deputy Minister-designates Chief Diva and Chand.

Earlier at the BJP State legislative party meeting, the CM-designate's name was proposed by Raje, who was herself considered to be running for the top post in the presence of three observers, led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Vinod Tawde, Saroj Pandey and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, the BJP incharge for Rajasthan.

The RSS-backed Sharma won the Sanganer constituency by defeating Congress candidate Pushpendra Bhardwaj with a margin of 48,081 votes.

He belongs to Bharatpur district but he was given ticket

from Sanganer Assembly seat as Bharatpur seat wasn't considered winnable for upper castes.

According to BJP leaders, Sharma, who is at present the BJP's State general secretary, holds a Master's degree in Political Science. He is considered close to the party's ideological mentor RSS and its chief IP Nadda.

Before becoming MLA, he served as the general secretary for the BJP four times. As per his affidavit, his total assets amount to ₹1,46,56,666, whereas his liabilities amount to ₹35 lakh. He completed his MA from Rajasthan University, Jaipur, in 1993.

After Vishnu Deo Sai for Chhattisgarh and Mohan Yadav for Madhya Pradesh, Sharma is the third surprising

choice for the ministerial post by the BJP. The party ignored obvious choices like Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Raje and Raman Singh and entrusted largely unknown faces with running the Governments and spearheading its designs for

the upcoming 2024 general

elections. All the three chief ministerial choices reflect the BJP's attempt to balance respective caste equations while warding off possible anti-incumbency. It is learnt that selecting a Brahmin face as Chief Minister in Rajasthan will also impact other neighbouring States as Brahmins are 11 per cent in UP, 20 per cent in Uttarakhand, 18 per cent in Himachal and 6 per cent in

Continued on Page 2

# Bill to regulate CEC, ECs appointments passed in Rajya Sabha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed a Bill to regulate the appointment and service terms of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election

Commissioners Election Chief Commissioner and other Commissioners Election (Appointment, Conditions of

Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, was passed in the Upper House of Parliament with a voice vote. Moving the Chief Election not have a clause related to allegations that the Bill has

Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 for consideration and passage, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said the legislation has been brought in view of the Supreme Court judgement of March this year while hearing a PIL.

He said the Bill was introduced in the Upper House on August 10 to replace the 1991 Act and was pending for consideration and passage. The 1991 Act did

Commissioner and other appointment of CEC and other ECs.

The Minister said until now. the names of the appointees were decided by Government but now a search and selection committee has also been constituted, and the matter related to salary has also been introduced through

an amendment in the Bill. Replying to the debate, Meghwal said the new legislation has necessitated as the earlier Act had certain weaknesses. He also rebutted Opposition



been brought to circumvent a judgement of the Supreme Court related to the appointments of the CEC and the ECs. Rather, he said, it is in accordance with the direction of the apex court judgement and also to ensure the separation of power as enshrined in the Constitution. The Bill triggered a reaction from the Congress, which alleged that the proposed legislation "subjugates" the poll authority to the executive and violates the Constitution. A clause related to protection from initiation of legal

proceedings against the CEC and ECs for actions taken while carrying out their duties has also been introduced through the Bill, the Law Minister said. Several Opposition parties in

the Rajya Sabha expressed apprehension that the new to regulate appointment of election commissioners will allow the ruling party to appoint 'yes men' and influence their conduct which would harm democracy. "It completely negates and

subjugates the Election

of the Executive and it does away willingly, maliciously the judgement of the Supreme Court and that is why this law is per se like a stillborn child," Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala claimed. Surjewala initiated the debate

Commission to the authority

on the Chief Election Commissioners and Other Elections Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill 2023 which was later passed in the Upper House with a voice vote.

Continued on Page 2

# Modi for global framework | Three redrafted Bills on ethical use of Al

Modi said AI has the potential

to revolutionise India's tech

landscape and the government

will soon be launching an AI

AI has the potential to trans-

form sectors including health-

care and it can play a big role

in sustainable development,

he said. But "we have to tread

He mooted unlocking the

power of AI for taking forward

Sanskrit language knowledge base, and using AI to reconnect

the missing volumes of Vedic

The direction of AI will be

dependent on human values

and democratic values, he

affirmed. Trust in AI will rise

if ethical, economic and social

concerns are addressed. Privacy

concerns will get addressed if

"We have to complete the glob-

al framework within a set time-

frame," he said adding this was

essential for the security and

data is secured he said

very cautiously."

mathematics.

 $P_{\text{Modi on Tuesday flagged}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$  the "big threat" that artificial intelligence (AI) falling in the hands of terrorists could pose to the world, as he called for a global framework for ethical use of AI.

Speaking at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence Summit, Modi said India is firmly committed to responsible and ethical use of

Artificial Intelligence, he noted, can become the biggest tool for development in the 21st century but it also equally can be a force in destroying the 21st century.

"Besides the challenge of deepfakes, cyber security, and data theft, AI tools falling in the hands of terrorists pose a big threat. Global security will face a big threat if AI-laced weapons were to reach terrorist organisations. We have to deliberate on this issue and reach a concrete plan to stop the misuse of AI," he said.

The Prime Minister said India had during its G20 presidency proposed creating a responsible, human-centric governance framework for AI.

"Just like we have agreements and protocols for various international issues, we have to create a global framework for the ethical use of AI. This will include a protocol for testing and deployment of high-risk and frontier AI tools," he said.



The Prime Minister said AI has to be made all-inclusive as only then it will yield more inclusive results.

progress of the world and

He described AI as not just new technology but a worldwide movement.

Calling for safe and trusted AI, he said Summit's deliberations should focus on how to make AI-generated information

"AI is transformative, it is up to us to make it transparent," he said adding the use of data and algorithms should be free from

'We have to work together to prepare a global framework for the ethical use of AI," he said. The Prime Minister said there are many positive aspects of AI, but the negative aspects related to it are also a matter of equal concern. "AI is transformative. But it must be made as transparent as possible.

"A good beginning will be to make data and algorithms transparent and free from bias,' he said.

The Prime Minister said the world is entering a new era, with AI. "AI can become the largest base for deciding the future.'

He said his government's effort is to use the full potential of AI for social develop-ment and inclusive growth. Technology when combined with democratic values, acts as a multiplier for inclusiveness and equity, he said.

# introduced in Parliament

The Centre on Tuesday introduced in Parliament three redrafted bills to replace the existing criminal laws by including various recommendations made by a parliamentary panel.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill was introduced first in the Lok Sabha on August 11 along with Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

The three bills seek to replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively.In the reintroduced bills, at least five changes have been made, including in the definition of terrorism.In the Bharatiya Nyaya (second) Sanhita Bill, the definition of terrorism now includes the word "economic security", among other changes.

Whoever does any act with the intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, sovereignty, security, or economic security of India or with the intent to strike terror or likely to strike terror in the people or any section of the people in India or in any foreign country...," it says.

The bill has brought changes in Section 73, making it punishable to publish the proceedings of a court which may reveal the identity of victims of rape or that of similar offences without

Section 73 now States,

Whoever prints or publishes any matter in relation to any proceeding before a court with respect to an offence referred to in Section 72 without the previous permission of such court shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years and shall also be liable to fine.

"The printing or publication of the judgment of any High Court or the Supreme Court does not amount to an offence within the meaning of this section, it explains.

"Home Mīnister Amit Shah, in three identical signed statements submitted to Parliament, had said the decision to withdraw the three bills and introduce them afresh was taken after the parliamentary standing committee on home affairs made recommendations suggesting changes in the three bills following a series of discussions with domain experts and various stakeholders.

He had said in the statement for withdrawal that to make comprehensive amendments to the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023, was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 11 to repeal and replace the

This bill was referred to the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on August 18 for considera-

# Didi to meet Modi to ask for Bengal dues

SAUGAR SENGUPTA **KOLKATA** 

 $B_{ ext{Mamata Banerjee will}}^{ ext{engal Chief Minister}}$ meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi apparently to seek release of the State's financial dues on account of MNREGA, rural housing, health and rural road infrastructure projects, State Government sources said. The meeting will take place at

11 am on December 20, an official at the State administrative headquarters Nabanna said, adding the Chief Minister would leave for the national Capital on December

Banerjee had earlier told a rally that she would stay in Delhi between December 18 and 20 when she had sought the Prime Minister's appointment. "I hope he will give me an appointment," she said earlierat a rally.

The Chief Minister who was addressing a rally in North Bengal on Tuesday continued her tirade against the BJP Government asking it to "either release the State's dues or quit power." Alleging that the Centre collected away all the taxes from the State but never returned its dues, the Chief Minister said, "earlier we had cess, sales tax so that we could raise our own funds but subsequently the GST regime started under onenation-one-tax system ... in



the new scheme of things the Centre takes away all the taxes ... even if you go to a restaurant they will take a tax of Rs 30 where the bill is Rs 100 ... if you purchase a saree worth Rs 100 then they will take Rs 50 out of it as tax ... but they will never return the State's dues from the GST."

Once again alleging that the Centre had blocked Rs 1.15 lakh crore of the State, Banerjee said, "they are not giving money to the workers in MNREGA scheme, they are not giving money for PM Awaas or rural road and health infrastructure thereby impeding development ... I will meet

the Prime Minister and ask for the immediate release of this money ... either you release our funds or leave vour seat."

Referring to the upcoming meeting between the two leaders, Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday said that "it is the

greatness of the Prime Minister who always shows high regard for the country's federal structure by allowing such appointments ... so this meeting is nothing new ... if the Chief Minister can convince the Prime Minister that all the earlier central grants had been honestly disbursed .. if she can account for the earlier funds then there is no reason why Modi ji will not listen to her prayers."

Adhikari also promised to counter all the points raised by the Chief Minister in her letter to the Prime Minister. "If the letter that she will give to Modi ji is made public then I will reply it point by point," Adhikari said alleging how the Chief Minister who was complaining against the Centre for depriving Bengal herself was "depriving the people of North Bengal by not implementing developmental projects in the

region."

The non-BJP opposition on the other hand called the proposed meeting a "prelude to strike some clandestine deals to share seats in the upcoming general elections in lieu of a deal in favour of Abhishek Banerjee," the nephew of the Chief Minister who was presently being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation for his alleged

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#### **E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website www.noidaauthorityonline.com & http://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes amendments & corrigendum etc.

- 15/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, M/o Sewerage (Two year repairing, Raising, P/F Manhole Cover Frame & Cleaning of Sewer line Manholes in Network Sector-119 and 120 and Repairing of C.I./D.I. Sewer raising main line of SPS-66, 69, 177) Noida. Cost Rs. 48.53 Lacs
- 16/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, M/o Sewerage (Two year repairing, Raising and Cleaning of Sewer line Manholes in Sector-62, Rajat Vihar) Noida. Cost Rs. 37.06 Lacs
- 17/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, D/o Village (Two year Repairing, Raising, P/F Manhole Cover frame and Cleaning of Sewer line Manholes in Village-Bahlolpur, Chotpur, Nawada, Chhajjarsi Hazratpur, Wazidpur) Noida. Cost Rs. 69.49 Lacs 18/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24. M/o W/s (Two Year R/o V.T.
- Motor, Sub Motor, Transformer, Starter, TPMO etc. & other allied Electrical work in Network Sector-57 to 60, Village-Mamura & Bishanpura) Noida. Cost Rs. 49.58 Lacs 19/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T/2023-24, M/o.W/s (Two year maintenance
- of PVC/M S /C L/D L Water lines and Sluice Valve Reflex Value and Chamber in Network Sector-63, 64 and 65) Noida Cost Rs. 76.18 Lacs 20/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (Two year
- Maintenance, Repairing of PVC, M.S., C.I./D.I. Water line and Sluice Valve, Reflex Valve and Chamber in Network Sector 119, 120 and 63A, 69) Noida. Cost Rs. 73.32 Lacs 21/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, D/o Village (Two year
- maintenance, Repairing of PVC, M.S., C.I./D.I. Water line and Sluice Valve, Reflex Valve and Chamber in Network Village-Nawada, Bahlolpur, Chotpur, Chhajjarsi and Hazarat Wazidpur) Noida. Cost Rs. 70.79 Lacs
- 13/S.M.(JAL)-II/E.T./2023-24, Strengthening of W/s (P/F of Booster Pump at UGR Sector-35 & 34) Noida. Cost Rs. 57.53
- 14/S.M.(JAL)-II/E.T./2023-24, Strengthening of Sewerage (Providing and Laying of Sewer Line at Prakash Hospital & Shilp Haat Near Children Park. Sector-33A), Noida. Cost Rs. 85.72 Lacs
- 10 15/S.M.(JAL)-II/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (Supply of Various Items in Jal Division-II Store Sector-37), Noida. Cost Rs. 84.38
- 16/S.M.(JAL)-II/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (Rewinding of V.T. Motor, TPMO. Fuse Set and other electrical work at Water Supply Network Sector-20, 21, 25, 26), Noida. (For Two Year) Cost Rs. 42.85 Lacs 18/S.M.(JAL)-II/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (S/F of Line Shaft Set
- at Network Sector-52, 53, 61 and Village-Gijhore), Noida. (For Two Year) Cost Rs. 60.36 Lacs 19/S.M.(JAL)-II/E.T./2023-24, M/o Sewerage (Annual
- repairing and rewinding of Submersible Motor & Other Electrical work at SPS-20) Noida. (For Two Year) Cost Rs 20/S.M.(JAL)-II/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (Repairing of AC/CI/PVC Water Line in Sector-20,21,25 and 26) Noida. (For
- Two Year) Cost Rs. 49.60 Lacs 03/S.M.(Gangajal)/E.T./2023-24, Strengthening of Gangajal (Painting, Repair of Plaster, Red Stone Flooring, Kota Stone Flooring, Kerb Stone, M.S. Grill, Door, Window and Misc. Civil

Work at different Gangajal UGRs) Noida. Cost Rs. 83.52 Lacs Which can be uploaded by date: - 26.12.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date:

27.12.2023 at 11.00 AM. 13/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, M/o W/s (Two Year S/F VT

Network Sector-14A to 16A, 14, 15, 16 and Sector-62) Noida Which can be uploaded by date: - 19.12.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date:-

Pump, Tube Shaft and R/o Bowl Assly. at different Tubewells in

20.12.2023 at 11.00 AM. Sd/-Dy. General Manager (Jal) Office **NOIDA** CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

From Page 1

Jaishankar had also spoken to Cohen in November when he commitment to "countering terrorism, observance of international humanitarian law and a two-State solution."

"Spoke this afternoon with FM Eli Choen of Israel. Appreciated his sharing the Israeli assessment of the current situation. Reiterated our firm commitment to countering terrorism, observance of international humanitarian law and for a two-State solution," Jaishankar had posted from his official handle on X.

'We remain concerned at the deteriorating security situation and have called for restraint, de-escalation and emphasised peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy," Jaishankar said in the Lok Sabha last week.

Modi met Israeli President Isaac Herzog on the sidelines of the COP28 summit in UAE earlier this month and emphasised a "two-State solution to the conflict".

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

My Client (1) Sh. Anand Mohan Jha S/o Sh. Shyam Kishor Jha (2) Smt. Nootan Singh W/o Sh. Praveer Chaudhary is the owner of part of Residential Vacan Institution 18 (2) Similar Notion Institution 18 (2) Similar Notion Institution 18 (2) Similar Notion 18 (2) S along with documentary evidence under address through registered A/d within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lier Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713. Karkardooma Cour

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

My Client Sh. Gyanender S/o Sh. Dinesh is the Owner of Residential Freehold House No. 28, in Khasra No. 67, having its Area 220 Sq. Yds Situated at Village Yakubpur Pargana & Tehsi Situated at Village Yakubpur Pargana & Tehsil Dadri Dist. Gautam Buth Nagar U.P Vide Registered Gift Deed Regd. No. 6542 Dated-07.12.2023 SR-II Noida Executed by Sh. Dinesh S/o Sh. Chotey Lal. This Above-mentioned Property is going to be Mortgage with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person/bank financial Institution having any claim/fight, Lien, Any objection whatsoever in regard to Above Property, Should Notified to the undersigned/acv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Dehi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered A/d within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. to have been waived.

Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court Delhi-110092; Mobile no. 9811215181

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

e it known all general public that the following Copy of Notarised GPA, ATS and Will executed by Mrs. Baljit Kaur in favour of Mrs. Gurmeet Kaur in respect to said Plot i.e. Plot No. F-302 area measuring 100 sqyds, dated 05/06/1979 b) Copy of Death Certificate of Mrs. Gurmeet Kaur (died on dated 29/05/1989), c) Copy of Relinquishment deed executed by Mr. Mohan Lal and Mr. Deepak in favour of Mr. Sohan Lal in respect to said Plot i.e. Plot No. F-302 area measuring 100 syds vide Document No. 18343, Volume No. 17/141, Pages 34 to 36, Book No. 1, dated 27/10/2009, d) Copy of Will (within Family) executed by Mr. Sohan Lal in favour of his son Mr. Mohan Lal in respect to saic property i.e. Ground Floor (Southern Side) with roo property i.e. Ground Floor (Southern Side) with roof rights area measuring 40 sqyds vide Document No. 7919, dated 30/10/2009 e) Copy of Death Certificate of Mr. Sohan Lal (died on dated 28/12/2015). I) Thereaffer, Mr. Sinhan Lal executed Will in favour of his son Mr. Mohan Lal in respect to said property i.e. Ground Floor (Southern Side) with roof rights area measuring 40 sqyds vide Document No. 7919, dated 30/10/2009. g) Thereaffer, Unfortunately, Mr. Sohan Lal died on dated 28/12/2015. h) Firally, Mr. Mohan Lal gifted said property i.e. Ground Floor (Southern Side) with roof rights area measuring 40 sqyds to Mrs. Sheetal through Gift deed dated 07/12/2023. If any other person having any objection kindly contact the undersigned within 7 days. Amrendra Kumar Dubey (Advocate) #959801188.

# Jaishankar... | Captain Fatima deployed to | Siachen as medical officer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

n less than one week two young women officers of the Indian army have recorded their names in the history books after they were deployed in the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield, to discharge their routine duties. Last week, Captain Geetika Koul, from the Snow Leopard Brigade, became the first woman medical officer to be deployed at Siachen, and on Monday Captain Fatima Wasim became the first woman medical officer to be deployed on an operational post on the Siachen Glacier in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The Indian Army's Fire and social media while highlighting the significance of Captain Fatima's deployment in pro-



moting gender inclusion within the military.

'Capt Fatima Wasim of Siachen Warriors creates history by becoming the first woman Medical Officer to be deployed on an operational post on the Fury Corps said in a post on X. lenges due to its strategic The Fire and Fury Corps further said that she was induct- demanding terrain.

ed to a post at an altitude of 15,200 feet after undergoing rigorous training at the Siachen Battle School. This speaks of her indomitable spirit and high motivation.

Siachen, located in the northimportance, harsh climate, and

# Biden not expected to attend Republic Day as Chief Guest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

US President Joe Biden is not expected to travel to India next month to grace the Republic Day celebrations as the Chief Guest, people familiar with the matter said here on Tuesday. With Biden understood to

have not planned a trip to India in January, it is learnt that the summit of fournation coalition Quad is also not taking place next month as expected earlier. It was expected that the Quad summit would take place around

US In September,



Garcetti said Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited President Biden to be the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations on January

However, there was no comment by India on the invita-

# **BJP picks Rajasthan Chief...**

### **Ayodhya** ascends as industrial...

From Page 1

Locations for investments are yet to be finalised.

The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has also made substantial strides by signing six MoUs, directing ₹74.000 crore towards solar power and energy projects in Jhansi, Sonbhadra, and Prayagraj. This marks a significant step in expanding renewable

portfolio in the state.

### Earlier on Tuesday, three BJP observers, led by Singh

arrived in Jaipur to oversee the legislature party meeting, where the Chief Ministerelect was picked. The team was welcomed by CP Joshi and Raje. Several BJP MLAs have called on Raje in recent days in what was seen as a show of support, amid speculations the party may spring a surprise this time. She also met party leaders in Delhi.

Kumari, a member of the erstwhile Jaipur royal family, is a two-time MLA and one-

leader, who became an MLA for the first time in 2013 from Sawai Madhopur Assembly seat, was said to be among the frontrunners for the post of Chief Minister. In 2019, she was elected as an MP from Rajsamand.

She is the daughter of erstwhile Jaipur royal Sawai Bhawani Singh, who earned distinction in the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war as a Lt Colonel and Commanding Officer of the Para Commandos of the 10th Parachute Regiment. Kumari is also associated with

non-government

organisations, including the Eye Bank Society Rajasthan, and Rays, an NGO working for HIV+ children, of which she is the patron. Bairwa, who was declared Deputy Chief Minister along with Kumari, is a Dalit face in the BJP. The 54-year-old won the Dudu constituency in the November 25 Rajasthan Assembly elections. Bairwa, who defeated Congress' Babu Lal Nagar with a margin of 35,743 votes, is Ph.D from the University of Rajasthan in

Assembly elections, while the

Elections were held on 199 of the 200 seats in the State. While the BJP had not projected any CM candidate during its Rajasthan campaign, the names of MP-

Meena and Diya Kumari had been doing the rounds in political circles. Polling in Karanpur was deferred due to the death of Congress candidate and sitting MLA Gurmeet Singh

turned-MLA Balaknath, Raje,

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Gajendra

Singh Shekhawat Kirori Lal

The BJP won 115 seats in the Koonar. It will now be held on January 5.

# Bill to regulate...

From Page 1 The Congress MP said there

was a time when the word "EC" meant "Electoral Credibility". "Unfortunately, you have decided to make it 'Election Compromised," he charged. AAP member Raghav Chadha claimed that for the second time within a few months, the Government has attempted to overturn a Supreme Court judgement which is an "insult" to the apex court. "This Bill is illegal. You cannot overturn the SC judgment without changing the basis of the judgement. This Bill is against the basic structure of the Constitution. The basic structure of the Constitution is of free and fair election," Chadha said. He alleged through the Bill the

can make Sambit Patra as CEC. be sent to a select committee How dangerous will it be if he becomes chief election com-

missioner," Chadha said. However, Meghwal, in his reply rebutted the Opposition allegations that the Bill has been brought to circumvent a judgement of the Supreme Court related to the appointments of CEC and ECs.

Rather, he said, it is in accordance with the direction of the apex court judgement and ensures the separation of power enshrined in the Constitution.

While Trinamool Congress member Jawhar Sircar alleged the status of the CEC and other election commissioners was being deliberately lowered from that of a Cabinet Secretary, DMK member Government wants to put a sys-Tiruchi Śhiva also opposed tem in place so that they can appoint their "yes men". "They the Bill and demanded that it

for review. BJD member Amar Patnaik

supported the Bill, saying the working of the ECs is not affected by the appointment process. He said there have been several elections after 1989 when no party was able to get an absolute majority but election commissioners continued to hold free and fair elections.

"Indira Gandhi's Government was thrown out in 1977 and that shows that the Election Commission's transaction of business which is covered under under Sections 16 and 17 in Chapter Four is not affected by the appointment process," Patnaik said. The BID member, however, sought clarification on the clause on disqualification of election com-

### Not possible to collect data of... From Page 1

On December 7, the top court directed the Centre to provide data on the number of Bangladeshi immigrants granted Indian citizenship in Assam between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, which is hearing a batch of pleas on validity of section 6A of the Citizenship Act had asked the State Government to provide the data to the Centre for filing an affidavit.

It had also asked the Centre to inform it about the steps taken to deal with illegal immigration into India, particularly the North Eastern States. Section 6A of the Citizenship Act relates to

illegal immigrants in Assam. The provision was inserted into the Citizenship Act as a special provision to deal with the citizenship of people covered under the Assam Accord.It says those who came to Assam on or after January 1, 1966 but before March 25, 1971 from specified territories, including Bangladesh, in accordance with the Citizenship Act amended in 1985, and since then are residents of the northeastern State, must register themselves under section 18 for acquiring Indian citizenship. As a result, the provision

fixes March 25, 1971 as the cut-off date for granting citizenship to Bangladeshi migrants in Assam.

# **CBSE** board exams for Class 10, 12 to begin from Feb 15

The Central Board of 1 Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday announced date sheet for class 10 and 12 board exams with the examination for both classes beginning from February 15.The class 10 exams will conclude on March 13 and the class 12 exams will end on April 2. The CBSE Board exams will last for 55 days and conclude by April 10, 2024.

On the first day, the examination will be held in two sessions: from 10.30am to 1.30pm and from 10.30pm to 2.30pm. On other days, it will be held in one, two, three, and four ses-

"CBSE Class 12 board exams will be conducted from February 15 to April 2, 2024 while Class 10 board exams will be held from February 15 to March 13," examination con"While preparing the date sheet, the board has kept in mind that there is sufficient gap between two subjects. Dates of competitive exams like JEE have been kept in mind while deciding schedule for class 12," Bhardwaj said. "The date sheets have been prepared by avoiding more than 40,000 subject combinations to ensure that no two subject exams fall on the same date," he added.

22, 23, 24, 28, 29, March 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 30, April 1 and 2. Class 10 exams will be conducted on February 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, March 2, 4, 5, 7, 11 and 13. For class 10, on February 15, exams for five subjects are scheduled---Painting, Rai, Gurung, Tamang and Sherpa.



Similarly, on the first day, exams for four subjects are scheduled for class 12. They are --Entrepreneurship, Kokborok, Capital market operation and Physical activity trainer.

To pass the external examination for Secondary/Senior School Certificate, a minimum

of 33% marks is required in each subject. For the Senior School Certificate Examination (Class 12th), if a subject includes practical work, candidates must secure 33% marks in both theory and practical components, in addition to achieving 33% marks in the CBSE 12th board exam 2024: Important subjects

February 15: Entrepreneurship, Kokbook, Capital Market Option and Physical Activity Trainer

February 19: Hindi core and Hindi elective

February 22: English core, English elective and English Elective

CBSE (Functional English) February 27: Chemistry February 29: Geography

March 19: Biology March 22: Political Science March 23: Accountancy March 27: Business Studies March 28: History

overall aggregate, to successfully qualify in that particular subject. The CBSE Board Exam 2024 question paper will contain 50% competency or casebased questions and 20% response-type questions. 20% will be multiple-choice questions (MCQs); 30% will be constructed response questions (short answer/long answer type). Last year, 38,64,373 stu-

**April 1:** Sociology

dents registered for the CBSE Board exams.

Earlier, in July, it was announced that the time table for academic year 2023-24, will begin on 15 February 2024, and will conclude on 10 April. Last year, the date sheet for the Class 10, 12 exams was released on 29 December. Generally, the board publishes the datesheet approximately 1

saying that it snatches away the

democratic right of students to

Following the EC's nod to the manual, JNUSU president

Aishe Ghosh was fined Rs

10,000 for "forcibly pushing

open the locked door of the

Teflas Students' Union Office"

on March 2 and given a warn-

ing not to repeat such an act.

According to the revised man-

ual, if a student receives five or

more punishments during the

duration of their study, they can

be expelled from the universi-

ty and will not be allowed to

register for the semester until

Among the changes in the

revised manual is a ban on

protesting within 100 metres of

academic buildings of different

schools which houses offices of

chairperson, deans and other

Earlier, the restriction was on

protesting within the 100

metres of the administrative

block, which houses the office

of the vice-chancellor, registrar

and proctors, according to high

the fine is paid.

register dissent.

March 7: Social Science

March 11: Mathematics Standard and Basic

to 1.5 months ahead of the first

2024: Important subjects

February 19: Sanskrit

February 21: Hindi

February 26: English

March 2: Science

day of examinations. In the 2023 academic year, Class 10 exams concluded on March 21, while Class 12 exams were extended until April 5. Meanwhile, CBSE had also recently announced that the board will not award any overall division, distinction or

aggregate to the students

appearing for the Class 10 and

centage of marks. Additionally, the board also clarified that if a candidate has taken more than five subjects, the decision to determine the best five subjects may be taken by the admitting institutes or the employer recruiting the CBSE board student.
Earlier this year, the Ministry
of Education in India
announced that board exams for classes 10 and 12 will be

board will neither calculate

nor declare and inform the per-

held twice a year starting from the academic year 2024-25. This major change is aimed at reducing exam stress and offering students more flexibility and the opportunity to improve their scores. Meanwhile, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has affirmed that appearing for Class 10 and 12 board exams twice a year will not be manda-

# Number of deaths in road crashes declines by 3 per cent in Capital

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELH

The national Capital has witnessed over three per cent decline in the number of fatalities this year as compared to last year's data. According to police, the 'Delhi Road Crash Report-2022' released by Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora contains the analysis of the accidents that occurred during last year along with the causes patterns and suggestions in road design, regulation and prosecution.

The analysis of crashes empowers the government to be more proactive in saving lives on the road through evidence-based and targeted interventions and programmes, police said. "In 2022 till November 30, the number of fatality was 1,342, wherein during the corresponding period of 2023, the number of fatality reported was 1,300 resulting 3.1 per cent decrease," said a senior police officer.

This decline, according to police, is a testament to the effectiveness of the strategies outlined in the Delhi Road Safety Action Plan (DRSAP). The police commissioner said that 1,461 people lost their lives in 2022.

"In this report, we outline a road safety action plan, which involves the joint efforts of multiple departments to improve education, engineergency care. The focus is on designing forgiving infrastructure to reduce the chance of crashes occurring in the first place and then reducing the deadliness in the cases where they do occur," said Arora.



"The efforts of the Delhi Traffic Police have led to a total reduction in road crash deaths in Delhi by 20 per cent over the last decade. Continuing our endeavour to save lives, we have now increased focus on more pedestrian centric traffic man-

agement," he added. The report identified the pedestrians as the most vulnerable road users and two wheelers next most vulnerable categories constituting 43 per cent and 38 per cent of the total persons killed in road crashes respectively in 2022, police said, adding the road crashes not only affect the livelihood of the people involved in the crash but also leave a longer imprint on the victims' families.

The focus area of the traffic police is to enhance the use of technology in smooth traffic management and surveillance and to improve road infrastructure particularly in design and standards for the vulnera-

As the pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists are the most vulnerable road users, the focus will continue on the road safety measures for them, including prosecutions and awareness

about usage of helmets, Zebra crossings, subways, encroachment free safe pedestrian walkways/footpaths etc, police said. The Delĥi Police ĥas recommended design interventions at crash-prone locations to bring decline in fatalities, they said.

In 2022, the Delhi Traffic Police identified 10 black spots -Mukarba Chowk, Khampur Village Daula Kuan, Mayapuri Chowk, Gandhi Vihar Buas Stand, Bhalswa Chowk, Peera Garhi, Punjabi Bagh Chowk, Britannia Chowk, Asharm Chowk. Meanwhile, Mathura Road, Ring Road, Mehrauli Badarpur road, Anand Mai Marg, Agra Canal Road, Road No.13A, Jaitpur Road, Outer Ring Road, Okhla Road, Lala Lajpat Rai Path figured in the list of most crash prone roads in Delhi

In the year 2022 till 30th November, the numbers of fatality were 1342 wherein during the corresponding period ty reported were 1300 resulting 3.1 % decrease.

This decline in fatality rates is a testament to the effectiveness of the strategies outlined in the Delhi Road Safety Action Plan

# Protests at designated areas on campus allowed, clarifies JNU

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

awaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Tuesday clarified that protests have not been banned on the campus and are allowed at designated areas. It came a day after the institute faced flak over its series of stringent measures against staging strikes or dharnas within its boundaries.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in a revised Chief Proctor Office (CPO) manual has stated that putting up wall posters, and staging dharnas within 100 metres of the institute's academic buildings can lead to a fine of up to Rs 20,000 or expulsion, while any "anti-national" act will attract a Rs 10,000 fine.

The Rs 20,000 fine for holding protests at prohibited areas of the campus is an old rule and not a new one approved unanimously by the university's executive council (EC) last month, the official said on the condition of anonymity. "We have not changed any

thing. These rules were already there in place. We have just introduced a few other regulations to ensure no disruption is caused to the academic process. Students still have the democratic right to protest at designated places," the official told

The JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) on Monday had manual released in November and it has outlined 28 types of misconducts, including a fine of Rs 10,000 for anti-national slogans, restriction on putting wall posters, staging dharnas within 100 metres of the aca-



punishable acts that could lead to a fine of up to Rs 20,000 or expulsion from the university. 'The stringent measures outlined in the manual are aimed at stifling the vibrant campus culture that has defined JNU

for decades. The JNUSU demands that the university administration immediately revoke the new manual of the office of the Chief Proctor Manual," the students' union had said. Vice-Chancellor Santishree

Pandit said the rules and regulations against misconduct have been in place at the varsity since long and the manual was made legally sound by getting it approved by the EC.
"This is old not new. Passed

unanimously by the EC last month as the manual had to be made legally sound. The fines drugs and misbehavior in hostels and towards women. The proctor's office since 1969 has been taking action, imposing fines and rustications," she

Student bodies at the universi-

#### **AZAD RELEASES BOOK**

**INBRIEF** 

New Delhi: Former Union Minister and senior politician Ghulam Nabi Azad released a book 'Jawahar' on the life and times of Jawaharlal Darda, a freedom fighter, politician and journalist. Speaking at the function in New Delhi, Azad said that nowadays the rift between the politicians is getting wider and bitterness has taken over. The book was originally written by Aprna Velenkar and the Hindi version is done by Kiran Moghey. The congress leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale, Vinod Tawde, National General Secretary of the BJP. Janardan Dwivedi. Minister of State for health SP Singh Baghel the veteran congress leader were prominent leaders presents as guest of honour.

#### TUF UNVEILS INITIATIVE CLOSE THE GENDER GAP

New Delhi: The Udaiti Foundation (TUF), a leading women's economic empowerment organisation, unveils its groundbreaking initiative, "Close the Gender Gap" (CGG) data hub at "Women in India Inc" Summit today with an aim to drive transformative changes in gender representation and policies within the formal sector. This event witnessed the presence of high-level stakeholders from the corporate sector, convening industry leaders and experts to delve into critical discussions on hiring, retention, advancement and leadership of women in corporate India. Some of the delegates include Naina Lal Kidwai, Former Group Head HSBC India & Former President, FICCI, Jasjit Kang, SVP & Business Head, Digital Operations & Platforms, Wipro; Manjaree Chowdhary, Senior Executive Director and General Counsel Maruti Suzuki India; Pankaj Rai, Group Chief Data Analytics Officer, Aditya Birla Management Corporation Pvt Ltd; Sabeena Shaji, Vice President, Human Resources, Federal Bank, Shailja Mehta, Director, Dasra and Shalini Puchalapalli, Country Head and Director, Google Customer Solutions at

#### **CONGRESS APPOINTS OBSERVERS TO 14 DISTRICTS** New Delhi: Delhi Congress on Tuesday appointed observers to all the 14

districts in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, officials said. These observers will work at the ground level to strengthen the party in coordination with the party leadership at the district level, an official statement said. Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Arvinder Singh Lovely announced the names of the observers, it said. Lovely said that a joint meeting of the district Congress committees and observers will be held this week. These observers will make the recommendations for the appointment of active workers as presidents to all the 280 Blocks and other posts of office-bearers, he said. The observers will hold meetings with senior leaders, and various categories of workers before finalising the names of the block presidents and office-bearers unanimously, he said

#### 74TH ALL INDIA COMMERCE CONFERENCE SOON New Delhi: The Delhi University and O P Jindal Global University have joined

hands to host the 74th All India Commerce Conference from December 13 to 15, a statement said on Tuesday. The theme of the annual conference this Saxena will be the chief guest at the inaugural session while more than 2,500 delegates from India and abroad are expected to take part in the event. The Delhi University's Department of Commerce, Faculty of Commerce and Business, and Delhi School of Economics will host the AICC of the Indian Commerce Association, the statement said. Delhi University Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh will preside over the inaugural session and Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya will be the chief guest at the valedictory session, it said.

## Atishi pulls up officials over deplorable state of sewers, orders action



STAFF REPORTER 
NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{on Tuesday pulled up}}^{\text{elhi Water Minister Atishi}}$ department officials over the "deplorable" state of sewers following an inspection in Chitla Gate, Chawri Bazar and Nehru Hill JJ Colony, an official statement said. She also ordered strict action against those responsible for the maintenance of sewers, it said.

According to the water department, complaints were received about sewer water overflowing in streets in these areas due to negligence in sewer cleaning. During a thorough inspection, the Water Minister found that sewage water was overflowing onto the streets in several lanes. This is causing significant inconvenience to people, and the streets are also being dam-

After conducting the inspection, Atishi directed the officials to take strict action against those responsible for the poor

The public is suffering due to Delhi Jal Board officials' negligence and the Kejriwal government will not tolerate it. Officials must ensure clean water and better sewer systems for the public. If they can't fulfil this duty, they should resign," the statement quoted Atishi as

The minister said that the responsibility of the Jal Board is to provide people with clean water and better sewer systems. If officials cannot fulfill this responsibility towards the public, they should resign from their jobs. In the Kejriwal government, such negligence towards the public will not be tolerated.

She also directed officials firmly, saying that with the help of experts and technology, sewer lines throughout the entire area should be cleaned prompt-

Áll relevant officials should conduct daily ground visits.

## Entering restricted areas violation, warns DMRC after suicide bid

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

day after a woman walked Aday after a woman wanken down the elevated metro track near Shadipur station and threatened to commit suicide by jumping on the road, the DMRC has "strongly advised" the public to not enter restricted areas on its premises for own safety and operational security, sources said on Tuesday. This is also a "violation" that can lead to "prosecution" under relevant provisions, they said.

The incident took place on Monday near Shadipur station in west Delhi. The woman was later rescued by security personnel and handed over to her family, police said. Sharing details of the incident,

a Delhi Metro source said, Yesterday, when a train was heading towards Shadipur station from the Kirti Nagar side on the Blue Line at 5.29 pm, the train operator noticed a woman walking along the walkway (meant only for authorised staff for maintenance purposes) in a precarious manner. The train operator immediate-

ly alerted the Operations Control Centre and the movement of trains on both the 'Up' and the 'Down' tracks were halted to ensure that no harm is caused to the woman by pass-

ing trains, the sources said. A team comprising the station controller and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel, including women staff, was simultaneously



custody and brought to the station. Later, she was handed over to Delhi Metro Rail Police for further investigation," the metro

The police on Monday had said the woman was later counselled by doctors and handed over to her parents. A senior police official on Tuesday said the matter was under investigation. Platforms and station premis-

es of Delhi Metro have areas marked as "Prohibited Area"."The public is strongly advised not to enter into restricted areas of the metro in the interest of their own safety and operational security of services. This is also a violation that can lead to prosecution under relevant provisions," the metro source added. Delhi Metro, in association

with CISF personnel, has saved or prevented harm to life in the past as well, wherein people trespassed onto tracks inadvertently or with the intent to commit suicide or cause disruption to services, they said.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has also installed warning signages at the end of platforms as "Restricted Area, Danger to Life" to alert passengers. The DMRC has the "safest

record of attending to medical situations reported inside trains or stations", the sources claimed."With timely first-aid or sending vulnerable passengers immediately to hospitals in a matter of few minutes, the DMRC has saved hundreds of such lives. Its frontline staff is trained in administering firstaid, including CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)," the source said.

In the last three months itself, the DMRC has attended "around 400 such medical cases" reported from stations or in trains. In all these cases, passengers were swiftly sent to nearest hospital in ambulances called by the DMRC or even in private vehicles without waiting for an ambulance, if the situation demanded, accompanied by a metro staff, the source

### Pre feasibility study to be carried out for construction of Bawana elevated flyover

**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will carry out a pre-feasibility study to explore the construction of an elevated flyover in Bawana Village that will connect it to nearby Kanjhawala and Narela Road. According to the Public Works Department (PWD) official, the department has floated a tender to appoint a consultant to carry out the study. The request for construction of the flyover was made by Bawana MLA Jai Bhagwan

"The consultant will carry out a Traffic Volume Count survey for all categories of vehicles for 24 hours on any midweek working day, showing all turning movements with classification of vehicles at every intersection," said an official. The consultant will also analyse the survey data -- including peak-hour traffic flow and peak-hour intersec-tion load -- to check the need for a flyover or an underpass, the official further explained. The consultant will conduct a cost-benefit analysis by taking into account the economic, environmental and social costs in implementing the project, the official said. The

report will also have details of

savings in journey time, man

hours, fuel consumption and

reduction in vehicular emis-

sion. "The consultant will prepare the drawings, report and presentation as required to explain the scheme of flyover or underpass," he said. The proposed elevated flyover will connect Bawana Village with DSIIDC Bawana, Auchandi, Kanjhawala and Narela Road. "The Bawana MLA had requested the PWD minister to look at the possibility of the construction of a flyover in the area to ease congestion," the official said. "Following the request, we were directed to carry out a pre-feasibility study. On the basis of its report, a more detailed study will be carried out and building plans prepared. A detailed proposal will be submitted to the Unified Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure (Planning and Engineering) Centre," he said.

MLA Jai Bhagwan said the construction of a flyover is his "dream project". "There is a lot of congestion on the Bawana Road and the construction of a flyover with multiple arms will ease the woes of commuters," he said.

"In the area, 97 per cent of the people are in favour of the construction of a flyover. The remainder are opposed to it since they think that their shops on the main road will be impacted but that won't be the case," the MLA told

### MCD proposes setting up milk bank of mothers at SDH hospital

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in its budget 2023-24 has proposed the establishment of its first lactation management unit or "milk bank" at the Swami Dayanand Hospital. However, during the budget speech, the MCD commissioner did not elaborate on the planned project.

The Swami Dayanand Hospital (SDH) is located in east Delhi and is the only civic hospital in the region. A senior doctor at SDH said a detailed proposal on the modalities of setting up the "milk bank" will be sent to civic authorities by the hospi-

"It will essentially be a facility where mother's milk can be stored at low temperatures, so that it can be used for babies in the future. It will be akin to a blood bank," the doctor said. Sharing the purpose of such a bank, he said at times, a child after birth may not be in a position to feed or may be admitted in an ICU. The idea is to store mother's milk so that when a baby needs it, it is available if the mother is either not lactating or lactation level has gone down, the doctor said. In such a scenario, milk is collected using breast pumps by a mother, and it is then hygienically handled by a trained staff and carried to the designated milk bank. The AIIMS has such a facility," he said.

# **'Firm message from House** must go against separatists'

Shiv Sena's Chaturvedi in RS raised concern about pro Khalistani activities outside India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said a message from the House should go to the world against some separatists threatening India. He made these remarks after a Shiv Sena (UBT) member raised concern over the rise in activities of pro-Khalistani elements on foreign soil and demanded strong action against them.

Raising the issue during the Hour, Priyanka Chaturvedi said Khalistani terrorists are increasingly seen emboldened on foreign soil and are threatening the country, and a firm message should go through Parliament that India will not tolerate such activities. "We need to take note of the threats by them and act accordingly. Our ties with Canada had escalated for such reasons and our diplomats were being threatened and billboards were being put up.

"We need to give a strong message to them through our Parliament that such activities are not acceptable to us and we will take every step to ensure the safety and security of every single citizen of this country... "We must bring such terrorists back to India and take strong action against them," she said "We should act on this and take appropriate action on this,"



He also raised the issue of the

plight of migrant workers

Kailash Soni (BJP) demanded

that military training be made

mandatory for secondary

school and university students.

He said this will also help in the

physical fitness and health of

Prakash Chik Baraik (TMC)

highlighted that tea garden

workers are facing a lot of prob-

lems in West Bengal due to the

non-linking of the Provident

Fund with Aadhar. "Workers

are not getting their pension

due to this. I urge the central

government to find a solution

Amar Patnaik (BJD) raised the

demand for setting up an

Indian maritime university

campus in Odisha, noting that

Niranjan Bishi (BJD) urged

the Centre to exempt the hand-

This is impacting the income of

lakhs of workers in the textile

sector, he said. Earlier, the

chairman extended birthday

greetings to NCP leader Sharad

Pawar and Union Minister V

loom sector from GST.

the state has a long coastline.

to this problem," he said.

across the country.

Îndian students.

Responding to her concern, Dhankhar said, "This is an important issue and I will discuss with the floor leaders so that a voice from this august chamber can go to the entire

Earlier, the Chairman rejected an adjournment notice under rule 267 that entails voting, given by Congress member Pramod Tiwari and said, "One notice under rule 267 received from Pramod Tiwari does not merit admittance."

In another submission during the Zero Hour, where members can raise miscellaneous issues of importance, Ram Nath Thakur (JDU) raised the demand for providing LPG gas cylinders at Rs 500 per cvlinder across the country, as has been promised in Chhattisgarh.

He said a domestic LPG cylinder costs Rs 903 in Delhi and is differently priced in other towns. "My demand is that the government should provide the cylinder at Rs 500 per cylinder across the country."

Samirul Islam (TMC) said there is a need to initiate welfare programmes for migrant with GCC to strategic partnership: MEA

India's engagement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the field of hydrocarbon is mutually reinforcing and it is working to elevate the buyer-seller engagement to a strategic partnership, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has a told a parliamentary panel.
The GCC is an influential

grouping comprising the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.

The parliamentary committee on external affairs on Tuesday tabled a report in Lok Sabha on India's overall relationship with the GCC.

In the report, the panel said the ministry told it that New Delhi's relation with the member countries of the grouping in the field of hydrocarbon is "mutually reinforcing and beneficial" and that "India is working to "elevate" this existing buyer-seller relation to a strategic partnership.

The total volume of India's trade with GCC countries stood at USD 184.46 billion in the financial year 2022-23, it mentioned.

Out of the total volume, India's exports stood at USD 51.27 billion USD and its imports at USD 133.19 billion USD.

The ministry stated that the trade deficit is owing to heavy energy dependence of India on Gulf nations and high imports of oil and gas, according to the

"Keeping in view India's energy security needs, the comittee desire that the govern-

ment should keep up the ongoing momentum and make constant efforts to enhance the energy partnership including in the field of renewable energy, the report said.

India working to elevate engagement

When asked to state whether India is planning to take further steps to strengthen its relations with GCC countries and Iran for greater regional security and stability, the MEA responded that New Delhi has always advocated "dialogue and diplomacy" for peaceful resolution of differences between countries, including in the Gulf region, it said.

The parliamentary committee also observed that India's relation with the GCC plays a pivotal role in the world political arena but the presence of China and Pakistan is "potential threat" for the position of India in the Gulf region and sought to know the steps being taken by the MEA to neutralise their

In response, they have been apprised that India continues to strengthen its historical relations with GCC countries across a wide range of areas," according to the report.

'Our historical and cultural relations and geographic nearness gives us a distinct advantage. India is also working

with other like-minded countries on specific issues in the Gulf. The I2U2 is one such grouping," it said. The I2U2 is a four-nation grouping. It is known as 'I2U2' with "I" standing for India and Israel and "U" for the US and UAE.

The committee noted that the Gulf region is considered as India's extended neighbourhood and critical for trade, investment, energy and security of Indians living there.

The committee also noted that India is having good long standing relations with all the GCC countries.

'To maintain peace, progress and stability in the region, the committee desires that the government should make constant endeavour to strengthen and deepen its political, economic and cultural ties with the GCC countries," the report said.

It said India should work with GCC countries to create architecture for safety and security of the region and a coordinat ed response mechanism to deal with threats.

On the initiatives taken under 12U2, the MEA has stated that the grouping demonstrates the strategic convergence of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the US.

### Bills to extend Women Reservation law provisions to J&K, Puducherry introduced



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

rdwo bills to extend the provisions of the women's reservation law to the Union Territories of Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Second Amendment) Bill and the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha.

"Consequent to the enactment of the Constitution (One Hundred and Amendment) Act, 2023, similar provisions for providing reservation for women in the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are also required to be made by Parliament by amending the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019," Home Minister Amit Shah said in the statement of object and

The provisions for providing reservation for women in the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Puducherry are also required to be made by Parliament by amending the

Government of Territories Act, 1963, he said. The two bills seek to enable greater representation and participation of women as public representatives in law-making processes in the legislative assemblies of Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.

Officially known as the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, the women's reservation law seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

During a special session of Parliament in September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had described the law as "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam". The Constitution amendment bill was passed by the Lok Sabha with near unanimity and the Rajya Sabha with unanimity.

The law will take some time before being implemented as the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise redrawing of Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies -- will ascertain the particular seats being earmarked for women. The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and assemblies will continue for 15 years and Parliament can later extend

### IAF Chief for adopting disruptive pattern of training

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI** 

Indian Air Force(IAF)chief V R Chaudhari has emphasised on embracing a disruptive pattern of training while fostering a culture of discipline and urged the commanders to keep pace with the global technological developments especially in the newer domains of space, cyber and electronic warfare.

Making these assertions while addressing the two-day Commanders' Conference of Western Air Command

(WAC)here ending Tuesday, he also directed to ensure that operations are undertaken in an environment of denial to bolster the IAF's aim to become a truly agile and adaptable air force that provides decisive aerospace power in furtherance of our national interests, officials said During the conference, IAF chief interacted with comman ders of the WAC AoR (Area of Responsibility) and discussed the impact of emerging technologies, the need for capabil ity enhancement and fully harnessing the potential of human

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{ ext{he Centre has issued fresh}}$  guidelines on government employees receiving awards from private organisations, making prior approval of the competent authority mandatory before accepting them. The approval, the Personnel

Ministry said, may be granted "only in exceptional circumstances". It further said that the award

should not have any monetary component. The move comes after it noticed that existing instructions in this regard were not being adhered to in true

Accordingly, it is, hereby, clarified that: awards given by private bodies/institutions/organisations may be accepted only with prior approval of competent authority," said an order issued by the Personnel Ministry. The competent authority for

acceptance of awards by a government servant would be secretary of the concerned ministry/department, it said in the order issued to all central government ministries/depart-"The competent authority for



Fresh norms for Government staff on receiving awards from private bodies issued

taries to govt of India and secretary rank officers would be cabinet secretary," the order said, adding that the approval may be granted "only in exceptional circumstances".

order said. Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) rules, 1964 provides that "no Government servant shall, except with the previous sanction of the government, receive any complimentary or valedictory address or accept any testimonial or attend any meeting or enter-tainment held in his honour; or in the honour of any other government servant".

The personnel ministry had in 1999, issued another order saying that, "in general, awards sought to be given by private bodies and institutes to government servants do not need

to be encouraged" as there are various methods open to government itself to recognise their merit and service.

Further, another order issued in 2000 by the ministry said, that "it was emphasised that the government servants should not be allowed to accept awards of monetary benefits instituted by private trusts/foundations,

"It has, however, been observed that these instructions are not being adhered to in their true spirit," reads the latest order by the ministry, seeking strict adherence to the fresh guide-

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whateve there is" basis on 17.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 52,44,615/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lakh Forty Four Thousand Six Hundred Fifteen only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLKUN00483867, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 04.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 05.12.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SEEMA RANI (CO-BORROWER, WIFE AS WELL AS LEGAL HEIR OF LATE DHARAMBIR SINGH), PRIVANKIT SINGH (SON AS WELL AS LEGAL HEIR OF LATE DHARAMBIR SINGH), KAVYANSH SINGH (SON AS WELL AS LEGAL HEIR OF LATE DHARAMBIR SINGH) and DIVYANK MINOR SON AS WELL AS LEGAL HEIR OF LATE DHARAMBIR SING THROUGH HIS NATURAL GUARDIAN).

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 92,52,000/- (Rupees Ninety Two Lakh Fifty Two Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 9,25,200/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Two Hundred only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING HOUSE / PLOT NO. P, ADMEASURING 135 SQ. MTRS. SITUATED AT SECTOR 23, URBA ESTATE SONEPAT - 131001, HARYANA.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiab bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date: 07.12.2023 Place: SONEPAT

Authorized officer Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

### **SALE NOTICE**

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:

Case Details ICICI BANK LTD Vs. APS SURGICALS PVT LTD.

CS (COMM)1227/23 ICICI Bank Vs Sandeep Kumar, RC NO. 90/2019, IN

ICICI Bank Vs Sanjay Kumar, CS (COMM) 2884/19

OA/ 43/2017

ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Yogender Raj Verma, CS (Comm.) No. 2051/21

Asset Details

Vehicle No. DL11CC1141, Make and Model - MARUTI SUZUKI Vehicle No. - UP16BE5195, Make and Model - RENAULT FLUENCE

Manf. Year - 2015 Vehicle No.UP14HT5870, Make & Model - Ashok Leyland Partner, Manf. Year - 2019

Vehicle No.DL10CM8176, Make & Model - TATA Nexon, Manf. Year -

Auction Date: December 22, 2023 From- 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. **Auction Type: Online Auction** 

Auction Portal Name-BidKaro & URL Link https://www.bidkaro.net Contact Person- Swapnil Upadhyay (8126013708)/ Rajeev Ranjan

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days fron the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, ShalTower Plot no 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles

My client Mrs. Saba Rana wife of Mr. Shariq Rana intends to purchase Freehold Residential Ground Floor of Property No. D-954, measuring 595.04 q.Ŷards, situated at New Friends olony, New Delhi from Mrs. Kumkum Colony, New Delhi from Mrs. Kumkum Agarwal, Mrs. Rekha Kedia and Mrs. Anju Sud (present owner) who lost Original Perpetual Sub Lease Deed dated 09.07.1989, Original Perpetual Lease Deed dated 30.08.1980 and Original Conveyance Deed dated 20.09.2004, If anybody including Bank, Financial Institutions, persons, relative has any claim, right, interest whatsoever in the said property shall inform within the said property shall inform within days to the undersigned with cumentary evidence. In the event of no response to this notice, than our client shall presume that title of the said property is unencumbered and clear.

Karnail Singh, Advocate K-8, Basement, Jungpura Extension New Delhi Contact No. 9811163363 & 9953683363.

Notice is hereby given that my client sapna jain is the owner of up shop (L-type) on ground floor part of property no. 271/13 measuring 12 sq. yds. out of khasra no. 962/149 situated in the area of out of knasra no. 902/149 Stuateo in Tine area or village sikdar pur in the abadi of gali no. 16 balbir nagar extr., shahdara, delhi-110032 (availing loan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd) from vijay kumar Sharma through rama guyal, vide sale deed dated 29/11/2023 (doc. No. 9314) All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale exchange mortaine (equitable) (resides exchange mortaine) (equitable) (resides exchange mortaine).

of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 4 days from the date hereof, failing perow within 4 days from the date hereot, falling which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. F-Z. First floor, Mahalaximi Metro Tower Sec. 4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

**INDIAN RAILWAYS** GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)

(RAILWAY BOARD) No. 2022/RS(WTA)-149/TENDER/532 New Delhi, dated 12/12/2023

CORRIGENDUM NO.13 to the Tender No. WTA-532

Sub :- E-Tender No.WTA-532 due on 15.12.2023 for "Manufacturing cum Maintenance of 100 nos. of New Generation Energy Efficient Vande Bharat Trainsets with Concentrated Power System including upgradation of the Sovernment Manufacturing Units & Trainset Depots."

The due date of the subject tender is postponed from 15.12.2023 to 31.01.2024 (Wednesday). The prospective Bidders are requested to visit website **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (RS),** 

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, (RAILWAY BOARD), RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 001, Email- drsm@rb.railnet.gov.in SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 8913/2028

#### APPENDIX IV-A Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Indiabul**ls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor") the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 16.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 14,89,743/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Three only) pending towards the Loan Account No. HHLVAS00183085, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest til 04.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 05.12.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from AMIT CHOPRA, ANSHU CHOPRA, PREM CHAND and NARENDER KUMAR.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 8,60,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Sixty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 86,000/- (Rupees Eighty Six Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY FLAT NO. F-3, FIRST FLOOR LIG, PLOT NO - E-52, BLOCK - E, SLF VED VIHAR

GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 200111. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. ww bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date: 06.12.2023 Place: GHAZIABAD

Authorized officer Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

My Clients Dashrath Singh S/o Late Pancham Singh & his wife Sita Devi W/o Dashrath Singh R/o-96, Arvind Enclave, Nangloi, Delhi-110041 have debarred & disowned their Daughter Rekha & her husband Mithun from their movable & immovable properties. My Clients have also severed all their relations with them. If anybody deals with them in any manner they do so at their own risk and responsibility. Ramesh Chander (Adv) Ch. 68, Western Wing, Tis Hazai

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that I Dipesh Bhattacharya S/o late Shri B.C. Bhattacaharjee am filing application in L&DO for substitution of the filling application in L&DO for substitution of the property no. B-347, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019 in the name of Dipesh Bhattacharya, on the grounds of Death Certificate / Relinquishment Dead there are any objections / claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting document through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at Ido@nic.lin, within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Name : Dipesh Bhattacharya Adrress : B-347, Chittaranjan Pa New Delhi-110019 Phone : 9868220806

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client MR. LALMAN is in process to purchase the Property Bearing No. RZ-701/314, area measuring 50 Sq. Yds. Le, 41.805 Sq. Meters, Built on Plot No. 36-A, out of Khasra No. 314, Situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Nasinpur, Delhi State Delhi, colony known as West Sagarpur, New Delhi-46 availing loan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltdb from TARKESHWAR PRASAD, who purchased the same from Mukesh Kumar vide Sale Deed dated 31.10.2018 (Doc. No. 10315), whereas Mukesh Kumar acquired the same wide relinquishment deed dated 28.09.2016 executed by Mrs. Radha, Mrs. Sharda, Mrs. Sharda, Chander Kantah, Mr. Mamsh&Mr. Amit Kumar (doc. No. 10311)
All personsh saving any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hered, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kanta Gupta (Advecate) Unit No. F-2. First (Inor. Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec. 4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351 PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

t is hereby informed to the general public hat Smt. Rashmi Gupta has booked the Residential flat in the project developed b M/s Prateek Realtors India Pvt.Ltd. Prateek Grand City" Sidharth Viha Ghaziabad. That Rashmi Gupta has expire on 26.09.23 and Anubhav Gupta S/o Vijay Kumar Gupta and Vijay Kumar Gupta s/o wadh Bihari Lal Gupta both residing at J 31, Sector 12, Noida have approached and applied to the company being the legal Heirs of Late Rashmi Gupta. In case there is / are nny other legal heir of Rashmi Gupta, the said person is required to approach th Company along with relevant document within 15 days from the publication of thi notice. In case no names are received by the ompany, Anubhav Gupta and Vijay Kuma Gupta as stated above will be registered a egal heirs of Rashmi Gupta and Ne ection would be accepted thereafter Sanjay Pahwa (Advocate

#### It further said that the award should not have any monetary component in the form of cash and/or facilities "Credentials of the private bodies/institutions/ organisations should be unimpeachable," the

# MP CM designate has many serious allegations: Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

The Congress on Tuesday **L** attacked the BJP for picking Mohan Yadav as the next chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, alleging that there are many serious allegations against him including "largescale manipulation" in the Uijain masterplan.

Springing a surprise, the BJP on Monday picked Yadav, a leader of Other Backward Classes (OBC) and a threetime MLA, as the next chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said, "Eight days after the election results, BJP elected the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, a person against whom there are many serious allegations including of large-scale manipulation in the Ujjain masterplan."

"Out of the 872 acres of land

reserved for Simhastha, his land was carved out by changing the land use," the Congress leader alleged. Many of Yadav's videos are

also viral on social media in which he is seen abusing, threatening and making objectionable statements, Ramesh alleged.

Is this 'Modi's guarantee' for Madhya Pradesh, he asked. Yadav, who was not seen as among contenders for the CM post, is considered to be close to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and is a threetime MLA and a prominent leader of OBCs, who account for more than 48 per cent of the state's population.

He was first elected as an MLA in 2013 from Ujjain South and retained the assembly seat in 2018 and again in 2023. The BJP legislator was serving as the higher education minister in the outgoing CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan's

### Opposition hits at criticism of Nehru

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Opposition parties led by Congress on Tuesday hit back at Home Minister Amit Shah for his attack on India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, saying the BJP leader probably does not know historv and "keeps rewriting" it.

National Conference leader

Farooq Abdullah too said India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru was not responsible for Article 370, as he expressed disappointment over the Supreme Court's order upholding its abrogation.

Ràjya Sabha members, Manoj Jha of RJD and Priyanka Chaturvedi of Shiv Sena (Udhhav) too regretted that just in name of hatred towards the first PM Nehru the current regime is out in open to change the histori-



cal facts. "Brute majority is all that speaks," Chaturvedi said. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said the whole matter was about distracting from the issue of caste census and in whose hands the country's money is going. "I don't know why they have venom against Nehru. Nehru is

not responsible. When Article (370) came, Sardar Patel was there. Nehru was in America when the Cabinet meeting happened. Shyama

Prasad Mukherjee was also present when the decision was made," said Abdullah, a former chief minister of the erstwhile state. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, Shah

had blamed Nehru for the Kashmir problem, pointing to the "mistakes" of ordering an "untimely" ceasefire and taking the issue to the United Nations.

# ISRO to put first astronaut on Moon by 2040

**PTI** THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

fter the historic success of Aits Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission, ISRO is going full throttle with its plans to send Indian astronauts for the first time on the Moon by 2040. Four test pilots from the Indian Air Force have been selected as Astronaut-Designates for the mission, ISRO chief S Somanath has said.

"Looking ahead, ISRO aims to take the next step in space exploration with the Gaganyaan programme, planning to launch a crew of 2 to 3 Indian astronauts into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) for up to three days before safely returning them to a predefined site in Indian waters," he divulged in an exclusive article which was released last week. Currently, they are undergoing mission-specific training at Astronaut Training Facility (ATF) in Bengaluru, said Somanath, who is also Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman of, Commission.

The inaugural manned space mission Gaganyaan involves developing critical technologies, including a human-rated capable of safely transporting humans) launch vehicle (HLVM3), an Orbital Module comprising a Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM), and life support systems. Two identical un-crewed missions (G1 & G2) besides Integrated Air Drop Test, Pad Abort Test,

precede the manned mission. CM is a habitable space with an Earth-like environment in space for the crew and is designed for safe re-entry. Safety measures also include a Crew Escape System (CES) for emergencies, a statement issued by Malayala Manorama said. The first development flight of Test Vehicle (TV-D1) was launched on October 21, 2023, and it successfully demonstrated in-flight abort of the Crew Escape System, followed by Crew Module separation and its safe recovery from the Bay of Bengal by the Indian Navy.

The success of this test flight was crucial for subsequent unmanned missions and the ultimate human space mission,

expected to be launched in 2025," Somanath said. Aditya L1, which is India's maiden solar exploratory mission, is also an important mission of the ISRO, he noted. It will study the sun from the unique vantage point

of Lagrange Point 1, showcasing the country's prowess in both lunar and solar research. Launched on September 2, Aditya L1 is poised for a fiveyear mission. The spacecraft is on its intend-

Court refuses to pass order for protection

Lagrange Point 1(L1), approximately 1.5 million km from Earth, where it will be inserted into a Halo orbit in January 2024, he explained.

On the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, he termed it as a 'historic achievement', leading to the declaration of August 23 (landing near the lunar south pole) as 'National Space Day in India' by the Prime Minister. In the mission life of 14 earth days, it yielded valuable lunar data, discovering aluminium, calcium, iron, chromium, titanium, sulphur, manganese, silicon, and oxygen in lunar soil.

Referring to some ambitious ongoing and upcoming missions, he said these include (SSLV), Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) programme, Xray astronomy mission XPOSAT (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite), Space Docking Experiment, and LOX-Methane engine.

"Together, these transformative initiatives define a new space saga in India's pursuit of space exploration, fostering scientific progress and an ever-expanding cosmic horizon." Elaborating, he said SSLV, a three-stage launch vehicle, can launch 500 kg satellite into 500 km planar orbit, and can accommodate multiple satellites. It has launch-ondemand feasibility, minimal launch infrastructure requirements and low cost.

With two flights in the recent past, SSLV is at the stage of transition from developmental flights to operational flights. Somanath further said the Prime Minister has set ambitious goals such as commissioning 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' (Indian Space Station) by 2035, and embarking on interplanetary exploration, featuring a Venus Orbiter Mission and a Mars Lander, to further solidify India's presence on the global space stage.

Exuding confidence that India's space programme will reach new heights in the coming years, he said, "with every mission launched and every discovery made, ISRO reaffirms its position on the global stage as a force to reckon with, instilling national pride and expanding India's technological feat."

## Opposition seeks caste census in Maharashtra

Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra legislative assembly Vijay Wadettiwar on Tuesday demanded the state government to carry out a caste-based census on the lines of

He was speaking in the assembly during the ongoing winter session of the state legislature here. "The Maharashtra government should carry out a castewise census in the state on the lines of the Bihar government. We are not opposed to any particular community getting ben-

efits of quota," he said.
"The census should find out how backward people are there in every community in the state," he said. In October, the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar released findings of its caste survey which revealed that Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) constitute a whopping 63 per cent of the state's total population. Ever since the Bihar caste survey was out, the national leaders of the Congress, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, have been pressing for a caste census in the country. In the run-up to the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rahul Gandhi had described caste census as an "X-ray" which will reveal the proportion of the OBCs, Dalits and tribals in the

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday said it cannot pass an order directing protection for a more than 200-year-old tem-ple in south Mumbai, as the structure has not been declared an ancient monument of national importance by the Centre or Maharashtra government. A division bench of Chief Justice

D K Upadhyaya and Justice Arif Doctor, however, permitted four residents to file an application before the Centre or state government seeking to declare the temple site an ancient or heritage monument.

The court gave the residents a fortnight to apply and said once the application is filed, the authority shall decide on it within six months.

Until then, the court said the status quo shall be maintained at the temple site. However, if the petitioners do not file the application, then the status quo shall

#### **PTI** ■ MUMBAI

of over 200-year-old temple in Mumbai Four residents had filed a plea expressing concern about the protection and preservation of the Vithal-Rukumai/Rukhmini Temple, at Girgaum in south Mumbai, claiming that it is an ancient temple, which is over 200 years old and needs to be

> torical importance. The bench in its order, however, said the temple in question has not been declared as an ancient monument of national importance by either the Central

protected as a monument of his-

or the state governments. "Hence, any direction as sought by the petitioners for protection and preservation of the site in question, in our opinion, would be impermissible," the court

It noted that the temple has not been included in the list of heritage sites, precincts or places under the Development Control Regulations.

The bench, however, said after perusal of various documents submitted, a need has been felt to preserve the temple site.

'What startles the Court is that no efforts have been made by the petitioners to seek a declaration of the temple site either as a historical and ancient monument or its inclusion in the list of heritage buildings and heritage precincts," the court said.

It said the petitioners could approach the appropriate authority in the Central government/state government/ MCGM seeking a declaration of



the temple site in question as an ancient and historical monument of national or state importance or for its inclusion in the list of heritage buildings and heritage precincts within a fortnight. If the petitioners file any appli-

cation, the authority shall decide within six months thereafter. We find it appropriate to direct that till decision under this order is taken by the authority/authorities concerned, the parties to the petition shall

maintain status quo on the spot as it exists today," the court said. If the petitioners do not file such an application within the stipulated time, the status quo order shall stand vacated, it said.

The petitioners' concern was that the plot where the temple is located had been purchased by some private persons who intended to carry out redevelopment work.

They sought direction to the state government and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation to form an expert committee to inquire about the temple to protect the same. They also sought directions to

stop all construction activities within a radius of 2 km of the temple, which may cause any

damage or degeneration of the The bench, in its order, noted

that as per an affidavit filed by the director of the Archaeological and Museum, State of Maharashtra, the temple has not been declared a protected monument and it has lost its historical and architectural context on account of renovation done by the residents in 2007. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in its affidavit said while it has not declared the temple as a monument of national importance, it supports safe-guarding the temple and the idols kept on the premises.

The court, in its order, noted that Article 49 of the Constitution casts an obligation on the state to protect such monuments or places or objects to be of national importance from disfigurement, destruction, or spoliation, but that is only in relation to those which are declared as such by or under the law made

### Lalbiakzama elected unopposed as Mizoram Assembly Speaker

Zoram People's Movement MLA Lalbiakzama was elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Mizoram Assembly on

state assembly for the first time from Chalfih constituency in the polls held on Pro-tem Speaker Lalfamkima, who presided over the election to the Speaker post, said

the opposition did not nominate any candidate for the same and declared that Lalbiakzama was elected unopposed. The first session of the new assembly began on Tuesday with the Pro-tem Speaker

administering the oath to members of the Speaking on his election as the Speaker,



tiality in the House. He urged the members of the House to

maintain decorum to ensure that the state legislature continues to enjoy the reputation of one of the finest legislatures in the coun-

try. Lalbiakzama also appealed to the members to refrain from attacking others on person-

Leader Lalchhandama Ralte of Mizo National Front (MNF), Home Minister K Sapdanga, BJP Legislature Party Leader K Beichhua, Ione Congress legislator C Ngunlianchunga congratulated him for his election as the Speaker.

Lalbiakzama, a businessman, is currently the vice chairman of the disciplinary action committee of the ruling ZPM. He had unsuccessfully contested the assembly polls in 2003 and 2013 on Zoram Nationalist Party (ZNP) tickets.

The first session of the new assembly began with the Pro-tem Speaker administering the oath to 39 members.

Of the 40 members of the House, 23 have been elected for the first time. Twenty of them are from ZPM, two from MNF and one from BIP.

Rajnath to review

CGP at Air Force

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh would be the chief

guest and Reviewing Officer of the Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) to be held at the

Air Force Academy on the city

The CGP of 212 Officers' Course

at AFA, Dundigal here, would be held to mark the successful

completion of pre-commission-

ing training of Flight Cadets

from various branches of the

Indian Air Force (IAF), a defence

'The Raksha Mantri would be

release said on Tuesday.

outskirts on December 17.

Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati will

Academy

**PTI** ■ HYDERABAD

# Assam: Groups resolve to resume stir if Government tries to implement CAA

As tributes were paid to five persons killed during an anti-CAA stir in Assam four years ago, various organisations on Tuesday resolved to again build up a movement against the law if the government tried to implement it.

Memorial meetings were organised in different parts of the state, including Guwahati, by political parties as well as student and civil society organisations.

The state had witnessed wide-Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA was passed in Parliament in December 2019. The All Assam Students' Union (AASU), which had been at the forefront of the anti-CAA movement, organised a memorial at Hatigaon Higher Secondary School field here.

Local residents also joined them in paying tributes to the five slain persons, including local teenager Sam Stafford, killed during the protests four years ago in different parts of the state.

Similar memorial prayers were organised by the AASU across the state.

The memorial prayers were held on Tuesday as Stafford, the first person to be killed in the stir, died on December 12, 2019. AASU said it will continue stir against the CAA, and its partner organisations have also been staging protests against the Act in other northeastern states as

the Chief Guest and Reviewing Independent legislator Akhil Gogoi, one of the prominent leaders of the anti-CAA agitation who was jailed for a prolonged period for his role as a Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) leader in 2019, said the agitators were ready to take to the streets again if the govern-



ment tried to implement the Act. 'KMSS has resolved once again today that we will resume our the CAA," he said. attempts to implement CAA. We will start taking the matter to the public once again and take to the

Gogoi, who now heads Raijor Dal, a political party formed after the anti-CAA movement, paid tributes at a programme organised by KMSS.

streets again, if needed," he

asserted.

He also maintained that the anti-CAA agitation will go down the annals of history as one of the biggest movements and will serve as an inspiration for pos-

Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP), another political outfit born post-anti CAA movement, also organised a memorial meeting at Panitola in Tinsukia district. Party president Lurinjyoti Gogoi,

who was the AASU general secretary in 2019, said the sacrifices made by the people during the anti-CAA movement will always be remembered. 'We will continue to resist any attempt to implement the CAA;"

The Nagarikatta Sangshudhani Ain Birudhi Samannai Samiti, a civil society forum against the CAA, also organised a memor-

ial meet in Guwahati. Eminent litterateur Hiren Gohain, CPI(M) leader Hemen

live in Tawang and West

Das and Assam Trinamool Congress president Ripun Bora, among others, attended the

meeting.
Later, talking to reporters, Gohain said the next course of action by the forum will be chalked out soon.

"Our Constitution does not base citizenship on religion. We will resist all attempts to deviate from its basic tenets. We will soon get together and determine the next course of action to take forward the movement against

Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis entering India on or before December 31, 2014 from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after five years of residence here.

It was passed by both Houses of Parliament and given the Presidential assent in December 2019, though the rules are yet to be notified.

Assam witnessed widespread anti-CAA agitation led by students and other organisations in early 2019 before the Lok Sabha polls, but it subsided after the 2016 format of the Bill lapsed in June 2019 when the term of then Lok Sabha ended as it could not be tabled and passed in Rajya

When the Bill of the present CAA was passed in both Houses of Parliament in December 2019, the state witnessed one of the most violent protests for several days as agitators engaged in pitch battles with police and administration in almost every major city or town, leading to the death of five persons.

This led to a crackdown by the state government, including arrests of leaders of the agitation, snapping of internet connectivity and imposition of curfew.

# **NC Hills Autonomous**

NORTH CACHAR HILLS AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL

# Council polls to be held on January 8

**PTI** ■ GUWAHATI

The polling to the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) will take place on January 8 next year, the Assam State Election Commission (ASEC) said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference here, State Election Commissioner Alok Kumar said polling will be conducted through ballot papers, as electronic voting machines (EVMs) cannot be used due to their unavailability at present.

The last date for filing of nominations for all 28 constituencies has been fixed on December 21 and the scrutiny of applications will be done on the next day, he

The total number of voters in the constituencies spread across Dima Hasao district is 1,41,124, including 70,485 men and 70,639 women.

"The last date for withdrawal of candidature is December 22 and the list of valid candidates will be published on the same day. The polling will take place on January 8 from 8 am to 4 pm, while the counting will be held on January 12," Kumar

If there is any requirement of repolling, it will be held on January 10. Kumar said voting will be held for all the constituencies, comprising 280 polling stations, of

which 27 have been marked as 'very sensitive', 100 as 'sensitive' and the remaining as 'comparatively safe'. Out of these polling stations, 10-15 per cent are located in extremely remote and difficult

terrain with non-motorable

roads, and the ASEC will grant

two days extra to the polling

officials to reach these booths, 'The total number of voters has increased by 15.4 per cent compared to the last election of the council in 2019," Kumar said. Voting will be conducted as per the latest photo electoral rolls published on November 14.

The model code of conduct has come into force with the announcement of the poll dates. "The law and order will be managed by the state police, as central forces are usually not involved in local elections," Kumar added.



**Case on sedition charge** 

PTI YAVATMAL

The Yavatmal police have registered an FIR against Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on charge of sedition and other offences for writing an alleged objectionable article against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the party mouthpiece 'Saamana', a senior official said on Tuesday.

The case is based on a complaint filed by BJP's Yavatmal district coordinator Nitin Bhutada against Rajya Sabha member Raut, who is the executive editor of Saamana, the official said.

In the complaint, Bhutada claimed Raut wrote an objectionable article against PM Modi on December 10.

The case was registered on Monday at Umarkhed police station here against Raut under IPC sections 124 (A) (sedition), 153 (A) (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion,



cial said.

language, etc) and 505 (2) (statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or illwill between classes), the offi-

Officer (RO) of the CGP," it said. During the function, the RO will confer the 'President's Commission' on graduating

#### trainees, it said. The ceremony "We have registered the case as includes presentation of 'Wings' and 'Brevets' to Flight Cadets, per the complaint and will officers of the Indian Navy, conduct a probe into it," he Indian Coast Guard. Arunachal Government working to develop

### **PTI** ■ ITANAGAR

runachal Pradesh Chief AMinister Pema Khandu said his government is working with community-based organisations to develop scripts of various indigenous languages of the state so that children are taught their mother tongues and they always remain connected to their roots. He urged the youths of Monpa and Khampti communities, who have their own scripts, to learn those 'The Arunachal Pradesh gov-

ernment is committed to pre-serving the cultures and languages of all the indigenous communities of the state," he said, while inaugurating Thegtse Sangye Choi Long Monastery at Balemu, a small hamlet at the tri-junction of Arunachal

### scripts of various indigenous languages: CM Pradesh, Assam and Bhutan in West Kameng district, during the annual Shar Amartala Torgya Festival on Monday. The religious festival, which is

being held under the patronage and blessings of Padma Shri the 14th Thegtse Rinpoche, was attended by devotees from Arunachal Pradesh and neighbouring Bhutan. The CM said Monpas and

Khamptis, both Buddhist com-

munities of Mahayana and

Hinayana sects respectively, have

their own scripts. While Monpas



Kameng districts in western Arunachal Pradesh, Khamptis reside in Namsai district in eastern part of the state adjoining Upper Assam. "Khamptis and Monpas are lucky to have their own scripts, which are now being taught in schools. We are working with community-based organisations to develop scripts, if possible, for the remaining communities or use the Roman script to teach indigenous languages to our children so that they always remain connected to

Khandu, a Monpa himself, said teachers are being recruited to

teach Bhoti script to Monpas in schools in the Mon region, comprising Tawang and West Kameng districts. He thanked all Monpa MLAs, and Union minister Kiren Rijiju for contributions towards con-

struction of the monastery. "We, the Mon people, have

been following Buddhism for centuries. It is our duty to preserve our culture and maintain indigenous identity," he said.

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

# **Hoping against hope**

The resilience of human spirit is being tested as daily life dissolves into a struggle for survival in Gaza

■ n the bombed, bloodied and lifeless streets of Gaza's biggest cities, the conflict between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants is unfolding with devastating consequences. The once-bustling urban landscapes have transformed into battlegrounds where the continuous sounds of explosion and gunfire reverberate, drowning out even the desperate cries of civilians caught in the crossfire. In cities where the battles are most intense and deadly, normal citizens find themselves unable to escape the chaos, destruction and death around them. Women and children, who should be shielded from the horrors of war, are caught in the crossfire, their lives hanging in the balance. Families sit huddled in the remnants of their homes, hoping to reach some sort of shelter from the relentless shelling and gunfire. The cries of children, bewildered and terrified, pierce the air as their world crumbles around them without notice and for no fault of theirs. Hospitals, already strained by the dual challenges of a global pandemic and limited



resources, are overwhelmed by a seemingly endless stream of casualties. Israeli forces are fiercely battling Palestinian militants in two of the largest Gaza cities. Israel's Defence Minister asserts that the ongoing "operation" against the Hamas will require an extended period. Yoav Gallant, a member of Israel's three-person war Cabinet, remains unmoved though the UN secretary-general and prominent Arab States have advocated for an immediate cease-fire. The US, for its part, is running with the hare and hunting with the hounds.

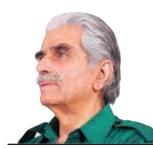
The cacophony of destruction across the Gaza Strip is not limited to daylight; even the black night sky is

illuminated with the fiery glow of relentless airstrikes, a whistle-like sharp sound and a plume of smoke accompanying those, creating an apocalyptic scene that haunts the collective consciousness. Amid the ruins, the human fear and toll is palpable. The war has already forced nearly 85 per cent of Gaza Strip's 2.3 million people to flee their homes, rendering them refugees in their own land where they have to bear the conditions of poor sanitation, medical supplies and lack of basic essentials, besides food, fuel and electricity. Those who remained behind face the constant threat of displacement as the conflict rages on indefinitely. Its impact extends beyond the physical realm, leaving scars on the collective psyche of a community that has already endured decades of strife. Dreams of a better future are eclipsed by the harsh reality of a present defined by destruction, displacement, despair and death. As the international community grapples with the military and geopolitical complexities of the conflict, the graphic and horrific reality on the ground demands urgent attention. The cries of the innocent, the rubble-strewn desolate streets and the pervasive sense of loss call for a collective response to immediately alleviate the suffering of the innocent and pave the way for a future free from the shackles of perpetual conflict.



A adorned raft 'mandapam' with an idol of Nandi, floats on Kempambudhi Lake during Theppotsavam, in Bengaluru PTI

# Do not let go of real Agniveers!



Attending the 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) diamond jubilee celebration was a homecoming: sad Indian army is not recruiting these die-hard Gorkha fighters anymore, a hara-kiri of sorts

he name and fame of legendary Gorkha warriors have risen meteorically due to the biopic on Field Marshal Sam (Bahadur) Manekshaw whose own reputation as a soldiers' General has also skyrocketed after his bonding with Nepal's Gorkha. Sam never actually commanded any Gorkha unit. Still, he enjoyed the awe, aura and magic of the Gorkhas. Ask any Army formation commander who his best troops a: Gorkhas is an instant response. They have set records on battlefields and in peacetime. Back from visiting Nepal last month and my Paltan reunion last week, I shudder to think about the sacrilege India is committing by compelling Nepal to suspend Gorkha recruitment as Agniveers. Last month at the Chanakya Dialogue held at Manekshaw Auditorium Nepali scholar and historian Chiranjung Thapa noted: "India should not take Nepal's Agni Pariksha". Gorkha ex-servicemen or Bhu Pus at Pokhara, Butawal, Chitawan, Nepalgunj and Kathmandu celebrate Jubilees. These sometimes parallel events reflect the burgeoning regimental spirit of seven Gorkha regiments and 38 battalions of the Gorkha Brigade. These gettogethers recall the Gorkha exservicemen's hand in protecting the territorial integrity of India which Prime Minister Modi himself acknowledged in Nepal's Parliament in 2014 when he said: "In every war India has fought, Gorkhas have shed their

Place in Ram Bazar. I am the lucky one. I seldom miss these events since I became a veteran.Last week 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) popularly FOFIF which was re-raised on 1 January 1963 after its demobilisation end of World War II celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. Veterans from India and Nepal received this welcome note: "welcome home. Nearly 200 retired and serving Its been a rather long wait...we officers and families came for have been yearning most intent-

blood". Any doubt about their

loyalty or commitment to India

is instantly removed when at an

ex-servicemen's commemora-

tion in Pokhara's Kantipur Party



redeem our pledge of devotion

to our paltan...we are happy you are here". No other battalion in the history of the Indian Army in its second avatar has won as many awards, citations and trophies as FOFIF. I am one of the few left who joined Paltan on its reincarnation in Dehradun. In 1965 we broke the back of Pakistan's insurgency, in 1971 created history twice in Bangladesh with the first ever khukuri attack at Atgram and the first ever heliborne attack in Sylhet, spearheaded the Jaffna attack in Sri Lanka with IPKF, foiled Chinese forays in north Sikkim last year bagging Army Chief's citation.

The prestigious International Cambrian Patrol Competition trophy was also won Space restricts listing all the laurels. But winning three MVCs, six VrC (three posthumously) 12 Sena Medals and 25 commendation cards for gallantry alone in a short span of 60 years is both historic and

the grand reunion. 300 ly for the Diamond Jubilee. To Gorkha ex-servicemen with



NO OTHER BATTALION IN THE HISTORY OF THE INDIAN ARMY IN ITS SECOND AVATAR HAS **WON AS MANY** AWARDS, CITATIONS AND TROPHIES AS **FOFIF** 

families converged in several buses from different parts of Nepal. They were the star attraction of homecoming. These diminutive fighters regaled one another with battle tales while referring to each other by the last two digits of their army number at the time of recruitment. "hey challis (44)! Malai Chinhiyo??" (you recognize me) and 44 would say: "Kinha na Chinhe (why would I not recognize you). Similarly 55 (pachpan).... This guffa (conversation) is liberally sprinkled with Old Monk, nowadays responsibly imbibed by the Gorkhas. Mandir Parade with puja, havan and arti is the start. The Bahun baje (Brahmin priest) blesses all during their first face-to-face meeting after years... even decades. Pagal Gymkhana is a traditional afternoon of fun: gambling, eating Nepali food and of course, consuming considerable amounts of pro-

pellants. The not-so-pagal" Gymkhana is the perfect place to chat with Burhos from Nepal and their families. Every regiment has its 'Colonel" - the seniormost serving General Officer. He hosted the officers to a lavish dinner. Former Army Chief Gen Dalbir Suhag is a son of the battalion. He was present greeting every one of the 500

One evening we were all treated to a Himachali feast of food and all the eating and drinking were adding calories. The piece de resistance was the Diamond Jubilee dinner at Piffers Mess which lit up outshining the Raisina Hill during the Beating Retreat. A film depicting the battalion's milestones is excellently choreographed. A presentation of paintings of different battles

The culmination is the unveiling of the Diamond Jubilee trophy. The next morning's wreath-laying is as poignant as comforting the Veer Naris during the Sainik Sammelan. Barakhana is letting the hair down with gusty "nautch" followed by an innovatively illuminated band concert.

The night won't end singing and dancing to Khemraj Gurung's immortal, Vari Jamnua Pari Jamuna. Am returning to NOIDA with additional baggage and nostalgia but feeling ten years younger - that's the magic of the reunion and FOFIF motto of Kafir Huno Marnu Jati-(Better to die than be a

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. Views are personal)

### **LETTERS** TO THE EDITOR

# Conflict resolution: Is anybody really interested



Conflict resolution does not seem to be a priority for big nations as they are busy playing their power games even as thousands die every day

ore than two months have passed since **▲**the Israel-Gaza war started, but the war is still not showing signs of stopping. According to media reports, more than 200 people are killed in Gaza in Israeli attacks almost every day. Meanwhile, there have been continuous calls and demands from all over the world for a ceasefire in Gaza (Gaza Ceasefire UN Resolution). America has just given a blow to a similar UN effort for a ceasefire by stopping it. The UN ceasefire proposal has not been successful in being passed because of America. America has vetoed this proposal.

The resolution presented by the UN demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the unconditional release of all hostages. 13 member countries voted in favour of this resolution but America vetoed it. In fact, after the attacks on Israel on October 7, the Jewish country has continued its attacks in Gaza, vowing to eradicate Hamas. At the same time, some countries including America are fully supporting Israel by calling this matter a terrorist



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres used Article 99 of the UN Charter, a very rare use by the UN, to call an emergency Security Council meeting to call for an immediate ceasefire. He appealed for the release of the hostages, saying that "the brutality committed by Hamas can never justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people." However, in the meantime, America, which helps Israel, vetoed the UN resolution.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged the UN Security Council to push for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, warning that the humanitarian system may collapse, and public order could completely break down. More than 36,000 have been injured since the start of the war, according to the Hamasrun government.

nothing", raising fears of widespread hunger and disease amongst the population. The fighting has so far killed some 17,487 people in the Palestinian territories, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. According to Israeli figures, Hamas attacked Israel and killed 1,200 people, while taking more than 200 hostages. Israel has turned a vast area of Gaza into a wasteland in the missile attack. The United Nations believes that about 80

Humanitarian assistance has

been "reduced virtually to

been displaced, and people are facing a lot of problems with food, water, medicine "People have started cutting telephone poles to get heat or maybe to get a little firewood for cooking," said WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier. The Israeli mili-

per cent of the population has

tary, showing pictures of navy ship attacks in the Mediterranean Sea, said it had targeted 450 targets in Gaza in 24 hours. Israel and Hamas should leave the war (Israel-Hamas War) and find a solution to the problem through

dialogue, many countries including India have given this advice. Saudi Arabia has also advised Israel and Hamas to find a solution to the problem through dialogue.

A Gaza resident told news agency AFP that he had lost everyone he loved. Along with this, he said, "May God punish those who are silent after seeing our suffering. Let us tell you that even during the ceasefire, 91 Israeli soldiers have lost their lives. Meanwhile, Palestinian

President Mahmoud Abbas called for an immediate end to the war in Gaza and said an international peace conference should be convened to find a permanent political solution leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state. The US Ambassador also said that America strongly supports a durable peace in which both Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace and security. "But we do not support the call for an immediate ceasefire. This will only sow the seeds for the next war, as Hamas has no desire to see

durable peace and a two-state solution," he said. (The writer is a senior journalist, views are personal)

#### **MAHAKAVI SUBRAMANIA BHARTI** Sir — Nationalist poet Mahakavi

Subramania Bharathi's 142nd birth anniversary passed silently on December 11, amidst all the pomp of a leading Tamil film actor's birthday the next day. No amount of adjectives would be enough to describe the deeds and characteristics of Subramania Bharathi, who was not just a poet but a patriot and a revolutionist par excellence. His poems and literary works were not restricted to thoughts on the freedom movement alone but echoed his emotions as a social reformer speaking about all social evils prevailing at his time. As a spiritual philosopher, he translated the Bhagavad Gita into Tamil and wrote many poems for children. He touched on every aspect of human life as a poet of all

Bharati was a visionary who lived far ahead of his time in his short life span. Had he lived, at least for some more time, I am sure he would have brought about certain positive changes in society through his impeccable literary works. Though the language of Tamil was enriched in no small measure by Tamil scholars like Kamban and Thiruvalluvar, it was Subramania Bharati who infused new life into it with his works. which were fierce and echoed bravery, and which virtually decided the course of the future of this beautiful language.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

### **SPIRIT OF VOCAL FOR LOCAL**

Sir — Today, with the spirit of Vocal for Local, the countrymen are readily buying indigenous products. It has become a mass movement. Through the movement, Bapu asked the people to adopt indigenous things. Self-reliant villages are a form of economic decentralisation whose basis is locality and technological resources based on it. Its objective is to serve the people and make them economically strong. In this system, because production and consumption are local, the owner, worker, and consumer all become one; this is its spe-

Gandhi has always promoted handicrafts was conspicuous considering the Other

# **Kashmir: Towards prosperity and peace**



Article 370 of the Constitution of India, which had provided temporary special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir (now the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh), the Supreme Court of India upheld the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir as constitutionally valid and served the long-awaited demand of its people. The top court further asked the Election Commission of India to conduct elections to the Legislative

n the 4th anniversary of the abrogation of

and cottage industries. His dream of Gramme Swaraj was that the cottage, small, and agricultural industries of the village should progress rapidly. If every citizen of the country thinks that the indigenous product he is using will not only benefit the country's company but will also generate more and more employment in the country, then the country will rapidly move towards becoming self-reliant and economic power.

N Ashraf | Mumbai

### **GENERATIONAL SHIFT**

#### Sir — It is quite evident that the BJP is determined to shape a generational shift in in the Hindi Heartland and phase out the seniors. While the choice of the Chhattisgarh chief minister wasn't unexpected, the Madhya Pradesh pick is. The selection of Mohan Yadav came as a bolt from the blue for many. Here, however, the

caste arithmetic of the BJP high command

Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir by September 30, 2024. Since the abrogation of Article 370 in the valley, a reduction in the number of stone pelting and militancy incidents, civilian injuries from pellet guns and baton charges observed, improved law and order conditions, and increased arrests of OGWs of militant groups have been observed. The municipality and district administration have undertaken various development projects like the Zojila Tunnel, Leh Airport expansion in the territories of Ladakh, J&K. On October 17, 1949, Article 370 was added to the Indian Constitution as a 'temporary provision', which exempted Jammu and Kashmir, allowing it to draft its own Constitution and restricting the Indian Parliament's

A multi-pronged approach is needed for a successful transition, combining economic growth, inclusive governance, security, cultural preservation, and effective diplomacy, ensuring a brighter future for the region's citizens while upholding its

legislative powers in the state.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

Backward Clase (OBC) community constitutes fifty per cent of the state popula-

The OBC candidate Yadav is young, though relatively a political novice, as compared to his OBC senior and erstwhile boss, Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The three-time legislator has fairly good administrative expe rience as a minister. However, whether he will succeed as Chief Minister is the big question. The BJP can, with its numbers, experiment big, and that is a big advantage for the party because one cannot imagine a party like the Congress choosing a wildcard Chief Minister. Perhaps the fact that "low-profile chief ministers" like Mohan Yadav tend to carry no appreciable baggage with them when they first takeover would have heavily weighed in the mind of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Ganapathi Bhat | AkolA

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# **FIRST COLUMN**

### **PRAY TO KNOW SELF AND THE SUPREME**

True knowledge of self and the supreme gives one a immense amount of strength



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI** 

rayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is a daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart..., Mahatma Gandhi. Prayer is something that we all do, irrespective of who we are or where we are. However, most of us pray only while we are in sorrow and that is why there is a saying in Hindi "Dukh mein sumiran sab kare, Sukh mein kare na koi" meaning that nobody prays when they are happy. This is mainly because when one is full from the inside, one doesn't really need any help from anyone. It is only when our stocks are emptied, like a helpless child we spread our hands in prayer for his grace. There is a strong trust in prayer that makes us feel that yes, HE is there above for us and HE will salvage us from all the sorrows & miseries of life. That is why it is said that prayer is a step of courage that will get us multimillion-fold help from the Almighty.

Most of our sorrows are a result of body consciousness that can be seen in various forms of vices like greed, anger, ego, lust and fear. If we get rid of this sickness, we will come to realize our true identity which is that of a peaceful being of light, who literally wants to experience life free from the bondage of the above-mentioned vices. Due to various external influences and negative habits formed over so many years and performing actions based on that, we have forgotten who we really are.

Therefore, to return to the original self, one must go back to the original qualities of the self and start performing actions based on that original consciousness known as soul consciousness which is not possible without understanding spirituality deeply.



"Who am I" & 'Who is Almighty?'. Once we get to know that we are Soul & HE is Supreme Soul, having a heart-to-heart conversation with HIM in the form of any relationship will not only let go of all our worries, but it will also make us light to enjoy a life where we are able to trust ourself, others and Almighty. But, before getting onto this sojourn, we should remember that a clear connection with HIM would require one to renounce all negative habits & traits.

When we experience the true love and understanding of achieving such a goal of renouncing the negativity from within, it becomes very easy and we start to experience a carefree life filled with challenges that we know will bring guaranteed victory in the company of our eternal friend, guide and liberator on whom we can surely lean upon. Understanding and accepting the true knowledge of who I am, who is the Supreme, and of different types of actions, gives one tremendous amount of strength for transforming the undesired personality to the desired one.

This creates faith, hope and courage to accept the things over which there is no control and to change the ones that can be changed. So, let us start this magical process of transforming the self from old to new to establish a pure and happy world to live in.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

# RBI should loosen the monetary lever



RBI's decision to keep the policy rate unchanged could pose a serious risk to growth due to a rise in lending rates and higher-cost of loans to industries



he Reserve Bank of India (RBI) six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPĆ) December 8, 2023, decided to keep the policy rate (the interest rate at which the RBI lends to banks) unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

The MPC has also said that the actions of the RBI will remain "actively disinflationary". The decision is a continuation of a trend wherein the RBI has been overly obsessed with the management of inflation and aggressively used the two prime monetary policy instruments in its armoury namely the policy rate and liquidity (a jar-gon for the quantum of credit available in the banking system). In this, it has the full backing of the Union Government which in 2016, put in place an institutionalized framework to enable the MPC to formulate monetary policy and determine the key interest rates for inflation targeting. It mandated the RBI to fix the policy rate

in such a manner as to maintain inflation - as represented by the consumer price index (CPI) - within the target range of 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent) for five years ending March 31, 2021 (the mandate has since been extended till March 31, 2026). In case of failure to maintain the inflation target for three consecutive quarters, it is required to submit a report to the Government explaining the reasons and spelling out the remedial actions it would be taking to check the

Maintaining high and inclusive economic growth is also an equally important objective which the RBI concedes. In fact, the statements of the RBI governor after every bi-monthly review of the monetary policy talk about maintaining a balance between the two objectives. But, in practice, it gives disproportionate attention to inflation targeting. The irony is when it comes to outcome even on inflation, it doesn't get

much success. Let us look at some facts. In December 2018 when the RBI governor Shaktikanta Das took charge, the economy was on the downswing even as GDP growth during the third quarter of FY 2018-19 onwards, was dipping. Then, the policy rate reached a peak of 6.5 per cent, courtesy of a tight stance taken by his predeces-



THE BANKING REGULATOR DOESN'T WANT TO **RELINQUISH ITS** TIGHT POLICY STANCE AS IT SUSPECTS THAT CPI INFLATION COULD GO BEYOND THE UPPER LIMIT OF 6 PER CENT

sor Urjit Patel. Beginning in February 2019, Das went for an aggressive cut in the policy rate which had plummeted to 4 percent by May 2020. Despite the cuts, growth didn't revive.

During 2019-20, GDP growth reached a historic low of 4 per cent. During 2020-21, it was negative at 6.6 per cent, courtesy of the over-powering effect of the Corona pandemic. During 2021-22, GDP growth rebounded to 8.9 percent. Though one might argue, low-interest rates helped revival, the fact remains that it was primarily the resumption of economic activities following the lifting of Coronarelated restrictions - that made it

possible. From January 2022 onward, there was a spurt in inflation that continued through most part of FY 2022-23. The spurt prompted the RBI to invoke its pet theme of inflation targeting. Beginning May 2022, it delivered a cumulative hike of 1.4 er cent in the policy rate during the first half of the FY (in three lots i.e. May/June/August). It continued to deliver more hikes during the second half adding to 1.1 percent (October/December 2022 and February 2023). A total hike of 2.5 per cent thus

restored the rate to its earlier peak of 6.5 per cent by February 2023. Yet, inflation remained stubborn almost throughout 2022-23. This was tacitly admitted by Das in his April 2023 policy statement: "When we started the rate cut cycle in February 2019 to provide support to growth, the CPI inflation was around 2 percent and the policy repo rate was 6.50 percent. Now, the policy rate is 6.50 percent but inflation is 6.4 per cent".

After February 2023, during the five policy reviews in a row April/June/August/October/Decem

ber 2023, the RBI has kept the policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

This is despite the CPI inflation decreasing from a high of 7.4 per cent in July 2023 to 5 per cent in September 2023 and 4.8 per cent in October 2023. The RBI inflation forecast for the FY 2023-24 at 5.4 per cent is also lower than the threshold of 6 per cent at the upper

end of the target range.

Despite a benign inflation environment, the banking regulator has decided not to lower the policy rate. It has also retained a policy stance focused on "withdrawal of accommodation". The terminology was coined by Das way back in June 2019 when he talked of an 'accommodative' stance pointing towards a cut in policy rate and an increase in credit availability.
Since, June 2022 the RBI has

reversed this stance and has stuck to the withdrawal of accommodation to date. Das has coined a new terminology in the December 2023 bi-monthly policy review and now calls it "actively disinflationary".

The banking regulator doesn't want to relinquish its tight policy stance as it suspects that CPI inflation could go beyond the upper limit of 6 per cent particularly in view of a spurt in food inflation during the rest of the current FY. Food inflation (which constitutes around 39 per cent of the CPI basket) declined from a high of 11.8 per cent in July 2023 to 6.6 per cent in October 2023. It was a major factor behind the significant decline in the overall CPI inflation.

Now, to argue that because food inflation could go up, the interest rate can't be reduced is untenable. The spurt in prices of food items has a lot to do with disruption in supplies caused primarily by seasonal factors. For instance, the impact on the wheat crop during Rabi 2021-22 was triggered by unusually high temperatures. During the Rabi 2022-23 season, rains accompanied by hailstorms in some areas had

impacted wheat production. The high inflation in July 2023 was due to a spike in prices of vegetables primarily tomatoes and onions – again caused by seasonal factors.

Such price pressures albeit on the supply side will automatically dissipate once the seasonal factors subside. Besides, government interventions in a variety of ways such as releasing supplies from stocks with its agencies, export ban/other restrictions such as minimum export price (MEP), price stabilization operations etc. can help in checking price rise. The RBI can achieve little either by way of keeping interest rates high or restricting credit availability. Another area where the prices get out of control due to supply disruptions is fuel and fertilizers. The spurt in their prices during 2022-23 was mostly due to disruption in global supply chains caused primarily by the Ukraine War. During the current FY, oil exporters sustained high prices with the decision of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in April 2023 to cut output by 1.16 million barrels per day (mbd). Here also, the RBI intervention vide

a tight monetary policy is of little help as it is focused on demand management whereas fundamentally the problem lies at the supply end. While, RBI's actions offer no guarantee that these would help contain inflation within the prescribed limit, these could pose a serious risk to growth due to a rise in lending rates, an increase in EMIs of millions of borrowers and higher cost loans to industries, especially MSMEs. It should shed its current stance and make way for some cut in the policy rate (at least one per cent) in the next review due in February 2024 and provide adequate liquidity to support growth. (The writer is a policy analyst,

views are personal)

# Chennai bears the brunt of cyclone Michaung

The flash floods and the resultant mishaps including the loss of human lives are the fallout of the failure of local bodies to fortify the metropolis from floodwater

**¬**amil Nadu, is at the receiving end of the North East Monsoon from October to December every year. Cyclones, tornadoes and tidal waves attacking the 1076 km long coastline is a routine event during this period. The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), a research and development organisation under the Ministry of Earth Sciences based in Hyderabad keeps the nation abreast of all aberrations taking place on the sea surface as well as underneath the sea

including tsunami waves. Tamil Nadu is one of the States enjoying top priority in the 24/7 control room of the INCOIS which is monitoring all three oceans and issuing alerts about impending



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

cyclones, tidal waves and tsunamis. The institution routinely holds mock drills to check the preparedness of the States along the East and West Coasts to face natural disasters. The INCOIS also acts as the regional warning centre for all countries that lie along the Indian Ocean Rim as well as the Arabian Sea. It offers free services to Pakistan, West Asian Nations and African countries as a humanitarian gesture. But it has to be mentioned with disappointment that Tamil Nadu pays scant regard to the alerts issued by this internationally reputed

institution. The Dravidian party that rules Tamil Nadu always ignores warnings from INCOIS as Stalin and his sidekicks are busy demolishing Sanatan

Sharma. Since 2006, cyclones and flash floods have become a regular event in the annual calendar of the State. The State Government has not learnt even a single lesson from the disasters which are ravaging Tamil Nadu. It is found that the DMK spends a lot of time safeguarding secularism and pluralism but the same care should be shown in preventing the State from natural disasters The flash floods and the resul-

tant mishaps including loss of human lives are the fallout of the failure of local bodies to fortify the metropolis from floodwaters caused by the overflowing or release of surplus water from the six reservoirs that feed the city of Chennai. The Israeli technologists who visited the metrop-



olis were aghast to see the profligacy of the State's politicians and bureaucrats and the failure to harvest the rainwater. Nearly 90 per cent of the rainwater received by the State is wasted in the Bay of Bengal. The DMK and Stalin could have made the Centre interlink the major rivers in south India so that Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, could get an uninterrupted supply of water.

The rainwater and stormwater drainages in Chennai and other major cities in the State have not yet been cleaned. The clogging in canals that act as carriers of surplus water is the main cause of floods and water logging. These issues could be resolved by locally available technology. Dr Sundara Rama Prabhu, head of the Department of Physics, IIT-Madras developed a nanotechnology-based sed solution to resolve this issue. Prabhu had claimed that the stormwater and drainage water being carried through Kooum, the most polluted river in the country and meandering through Chennai could be recycled and reused at a cost Puthussery and Telangana of Rs 100 crore. However, the the Tamil Nadu Government

state administration is not impressed with the cost of the project as those in corridors of power would not consider any innovations that are less

than Rs 2000 crore! Once the fury of North East Monsoon is over, it is time for Kaveri politics. Tamil Nadu insists that Karnataka should release Kaveri water as per the decisions of the Supreme Court and the Kaveri Water Dispute Tribunal. But for that to happen, Karnataka should get copious rainfall in its catchment areas. If the South West Monsoon fails (which is certain to happen) Tamil Nadu will start fretting and fuming for more water from Karnataka. Other than asking for Central assistance and water from Karnataka, has

done anything to address these

"burning" issues? The DMK has wielded power at the Centre during 1996-1998, 1999-2003 and 2004 -2013. The general public should have a right to know what the DMK has done for the State during these periods. It is fine if the leaders in Chennai succeed in their efforts to amass wealth but they should show some kind of compassion to the people who voted them to power. Demolish Sanatana Dharma but reduce the burden of the poor. Hundreds of people in Chennai suburbs and neighbouring districts have lost their houses and belongings in Cyclone Michaung's fury. (The writer is a special corre-

spondent with the Pioneer, views are personal)

# Israel, US face growing isolation over Gaza

AP RAFAH (GAZA STRIP)

Israel and the United States were increasingly isolated as they faced global calls for a cease-fire in Gaza, including a non-binding vote expected to pass at the United Nations later on Tuesday. Israel has pressed ahead with an offensive against Gaza's Hamas rulers that it says could go on for weeks or months.

The war ignited by Hamas' October 7 attack into southern Israel has already brought unprecedented death and destruction to the impoverished coastal enclave, with more than 18,000 Palestinians killed, mostly women and minors, and over 80 per cent of the population of 2.3 million having fled their homes.

Much of northern Gaza has been obliterated, and hundreds of thousands have fled to ever-shrinking so-called safe zones in the south. The health care system and humanitarian

aid operations have collapsed in large parts of Gaza, and aid workers have warned of starvation and the spread of disease among displaced people in overcrowded shelters and tent

Strikes overnight and into Tuesday in southern Gaza — in an area where civilians have been told to seek shelter killed at least 23 people, according to an Associated Press reporter at a nearby hospital.

In central Gaza, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah received the bodies of 33 people killed in strikes ernight, including 16 women and four children, according to hospital records. Many were killed in strikes that hit residential buildings in the built-up Maghazi refugee camp nearby.

In northern Gaza, the aid group Doctors Without Borders said a surgeon in the Al-Awda hospital was wounded on Monday by a shot fired from outside the facility, which it says has been under "total siege" by Israeli forces for a week. There was no immediate comment from the military.

In a briefing with The Associated Press on Monday, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant refused to commit to a firm timeline, but signalled that the current phase of heavy ground fighting and airstrikes could stretch on for weeks and that further military activity could continue for months.

He said the next phase would be lower-intensity fight-ing against "pockets of resis-tance". Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel will maintain security control over Gaza indefinitely

The UN secretary-general and Arab states have rallied much of the international community behind calls for an immediate cease-fire. But the US vetoed those efforts at the UN Security Council last week as it rushed tank munitions to Israel to allow it to maintain the

offensive. A non-binding vote on a similar resolution at the General Assembly scheduled for Tuesday would be largely symbolic.

#### **CRUSHING HAMAS** SEEN AS TALL ORDER'

Israel and its main ally, the US, argue that any cease-fire that leaves Hamas in power, even over a small part of the devastated territory, would mean victory for the militant group, which has governed Gaza since 2007 and has pledged to destroy Israel.

But many experts consider Israel's aims to be unrealistic, pointing to Hamas' deep base of support in both Gaza and the occupied West Bank, where it is seen by many Palestinians as resisting Israel's decades-old military rule.

"Destroying Hamas, even its military capability — Israeli leaders' chief war aim — will be a tall order without decimating what remains of Gaza," said the Crisis Group, an international think tank, in a report over the weekend that also called for an immediate cease-fire.

Gallant said Israel has already inflicted heavy damage on Hamas, killing half the group's battalion commanders and destroying many tunnels, command centres and other

The Israeli military said on Tuesday that its aircraft targeted rocket launching posts throughout Gaza and that ground troops has found 250 rockets, mortar shells and rocket-propelled grenade launchers in a raid. Israeli officials have said

some 7,000 Hamas militants roughly one-quarter of the group's estimated fighting force have been killed and that 500 militants have been detained in Gaza the past month, claims that could not be verified. At least 104 Israeli soldiers have been killed in the Gaza ground offensive, the army says.

ern Gaza, Hamas has been reduced to "islands of resistance", while in the south, where Israel expanded ground operations earlier this month, "they are still organised militarily".

Hamas says it still has thousands of reserve fighters another unverified claim and on Monday it fired a barrage of rockets that wounded one person and damaged cars and buildings in a Tel Aviv suburb. The attack set off sirens in the city, where Gallant's office and the military headquarters are located.

Lebanon's Hezbollah has repeatedly traded fire with Israel, and other Iran-backed groups across the region have attacked US targets, threatening to widen the conflict.

Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, who have targeted Israeli shipping, attacked a tanker in the Red Sea with no clear ties to the country



Relatives and friends of hostages held in the Gaza Strip by the Hamas militant group have their eyes covered as a display to show the condition of the hostages while they call for their release during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah in the Hostages Square at the Museum of Art in Tel Aviv, Israel on Monday.

# Sunak on charm offensive to win over rebels

 $B^{\text{ritish Prime Minister Rishi}}_{\text{Sunak is on a charm offen-}}$ sive on Tuesday in a bid to win over parliamentarians from within his Conservative Party threatening to rebel against the government's Safety of Rwanda Bill, aimed at overcoming legal hurdles in the way of deporting illegal migrants to the east African nation. Ahead of an early-stage

vote on the bill expected in the House of Commons later in the day, Sunak hosted a breakfast summit for the Tory rebels on the extreme right of the party who are opposed to the bill because they feel it is not strong enough to circumvent legal challenges. However, more centrist

Tories are against the "toughest anti-immigration law ever" being toughened further to threaten the UK's human rights obligations. With the Opposition parties planning to vote against it, Tory rebels either voting against or abstaining in Tuesday night's vote to



defeat the bill is seen as a test of Sunak's authority within his

The bill is not a silver bullet, but it will make it more likely that some illegal immigrants are sent to Africa," former defence secretary Ben Wallace, among the senior Tory MPs urging the party to unite behind the bill, writes in 'The Daily Telegraph'.

Yes, we lost before the courts, but just like any government before us, we have addressed the issues and I am confident that, as long as Labour doesn't use the unelected House of Lords to derail the scheme, there is a good chance

the return programme will progress," he said. Another former Cabinet colleague, Geoffrey Cox, told the BBC that the bill is the beginnings of the solution to a major problem. "We need to unite – improve it – but get it through," The New Conservatives

group on the other end of the party insists the bill required 'major surgery or replacement". More than 40 members met on Monday evening to discuss how they would vote and many planned to abstain or vote against the bill. Sunak will hope his breakfast charm offensive ahead of a weekly Cabinet meeting will be enough to ensure he doesn't become the first UK PM in nearly 40 years to face a defeat on a vote at such an early stage of a government bill. Tuesday is just the first parliamentary test for the Safety of Rwanda Bill, referred to as the second reading in the Commons, giving MPs a chance to debate and vote on its

main principles before any

amendments. If it is defeated at

this stage, it would mean the end of the bill in its current form. The government says the aim of the policy is to deter migrants from crossing the English Channel and it is central to the plan to "stop the boats", one of Sunak's top priorities ahead of a general election year in 2024.

The Opposition Labour Party has accused the Tories of infighting rather than coming up with workable solutions on the issue of illegal migration.

Labour Leader Kein Starmer described the Rwanda scheme, which has already cost the UK taxpayer GBP 290 million, as a "gimmick" that proves the Tory-led government had 'lost control of our borders".

Under the plan, the UK plans to deport illegal migrants to Rwanda while their asylum claims are processed and hopes it will act as a deterrent for people smugglers bringing migrants illegally to UK shores. The new law is intended to deal with the UK Supreme Court having ruled the policy unlawful last month.

# Missile strikes Norwegian tanker off Yemen

missile fired by Yemen's A Houthi rebels slammed into a Norwegian-flagged tanker in the Red Sea off the coast of Yemen near a key maritime chokepoint, the rebels and authorities said Tuesday. The assault on the oil and chemical tanker Strinda expands a campaign by the Iranian-backed rebels targeting ships close to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait into apparently now striking those that have no clear ties to Israel. That potentially imperils cargo and energy shipments coming through the Suez Canal and further widens the international impact of the Israel-Hamas war now raging in the Gaza Strip.Houthi military spokesperson Brig Gen Yahya Saree issued a video statement saying the rebels only

"rejected all warning calls". The US military's Central Command issued a statement Tuesday saying an anti-ship

fired on the vessel when it

cruise missile "launched from a Houthi-controlled area of Yemen" hit the Strinda. "There were no US ships in the vicinity at the time of the attack, but USS Mason responded...and is currently rendering assistance," Central Command said. The Mason is an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer that has been involved in several of the

recent incidents off Yemen. France's Armies Ministry separately said that its frigate Languedoc shot down a drone that was "threatening" the

Strinda during the attack.
The French frigate "then positioned itself to protect the affected vessel, preventing an attempt to hijack the ship," the French military said. The private intelligence firms Ambrey and Dryad Global had earlier confirmed the attack happened near the crucial Bab el-Mandeb Strait separating East Africa from the Arabian Peninsula.

Geir Belsnes, the CEO of the Strinda's operator, J Ludwig Mowinckels Rederi, also confirmed the attack took place.

"All crew members are unhurt and safe," Belsnes said. "The vessel is now proceeding to a safe port." The Strinda was coming from Malaysia and was bound for the Suez Canal and then on to Italy with a cargo of palm oil, Belsnes said. Saree alleged without offering any evidence that the ship was bound for Israel.

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, which provides warnings to sailors in the Middle East, earlier reported a fire aboard an unidentified vessel off Mokha, Yemen, with all the crew aboard being safe. The coordinates of that fire correspond to the last known location of the Strinda based off satellite tracking data analysed by The Associated Press. The Houthis have carried out a series of attacks on vessels in the Red Sea and also launched drones and missiles targeting Israel. In recent days, they have threatened to attack

Strinda and Israel. Israel's national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, said over the weekend that Israel has called on its Western allies to address the threats from Yemen and would give them "some time" to organise a response. But he said if the threats persist, "we will act to remove this blockade". Analysts suggest the Houthis hope to shore up waning popular support after years of civil war in Yemen oetween it and Saudi-backed forces. France and the United States have stopped short of saying their ships were targeted in rebel attacks, but have said Houthi drones have headed toward their ships and were shot down in selfdefense. Washington so far has declined to directly respond to the attacks, as has İsrael, whose military continues to describe the ships as not having links to their country.

any vessel they believe is either

going to or coming from Israel,

though there was no immedi-

ate apparent link between the

# Tusk vows to help Ukraine

**AP** WARSAW

New Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Tuesday that his government will mobilize to keep the world Ukraine. Tusk said it hurts him to hear that Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has to keep trying to persuade world leaders about the need to continue supporting Kyiv's struggle against Russian aggres-

He said it will be a priority for his coalition government to persuade leaders that they need to continue to help Ukraine defend itself, and that is also in the interests of the free world. He said he would "loudly and decisively demand the full mobilization of the free world, the Western world, to help Ukraine in this war." "There is no alternative to this way of thinking. I can no longer listen to some European politicians from other Western countries who say something about being tired of the situa-



They say it to President Zelenskyy's face that they no longer have the strength, that they are exhausted." Tusk said.

'Poland's task, the new government's task, but also the task of all of us, is to loudly and firmly demand the full determination from the entire Western community to help Ukraine in this war. I will do this from day one," Tusk said.

Tusk was making his policy speech in parliament on Tuesday, a day after lawmakers chose him as the new prime

minister. Tusk, a centrist leader who was previously prime minister from 2007-2014, returns as the head of a broad alliance that spans the ideological spectrum from left-wing Platform party to more conservative parties. He was elected by parliament on Monday and faces many challenges, from restoring democratic standards in his own country, working for the release of European Union funding frozen due to democratic backsliding by his predecessors and facing the implications of the war just across Poland's eastern border in Ukraine.

One of his easier challengers will be restoring ties with the EU, which were badly strained during the past eight years of rule by a national conservative government. Tusk, who served as European Council president from 2014-2019 and has strong connections in Brussels, is expected to improve Warsaw's standing in the bloc's capital.

### **COP 28**

**AP/PTI** ■ DUBAI

 $\mathbf{T}$ n the bustling halls where held, onetime farmer Joseph Kenson Sakala of Malawi is sharing the story of how fossil fuel development upended his life — and hoping that negotiators listen to many such stories and then move decisively to cut the use of the coal, oil and gas warming the planet. Sakala grew maize and produced enough to sustain his family and to help feed his broader community of Mchinji. But he was forced out by water and soil pollution from coal mining in his East Africa nation, he said. Sakala now leads a non-governmental organization, Youth for Environment and Sustainable Development, that helps farmers adapt to climate change.

"Climate crisis and damages because of fossil fuel extraction destroyed me," Sakala said. "Now in Malawi, there are just a few



Licypriya Kangujam protests against the use of fossil fuels during an event at the COP28 U.N. Climate Summit, Monday in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

money at the expense of so many people like us who are suf-

At the COP28 talks in Dubai, 34-year-old Sakala told his story in a meeting of African countries, spoke with Nepal leaders chairing the group of Least Developed Countries, and hosted an event on fossil fuel

rich people who are making extraction's effects on vulnerable communities.

The health issues his community faced from pollution will reach others unless leaders agree to phase out fossil fuels, Sakala

The fate of fossil fuels is the central question at the United Nations-led talks, with activists and experts saying that a quick

Doctors advise Singaporeans to put on

phase out is the only way to bring emissions down sharply enough to avert catastrophic warming. Some oil-rich nations argue, instead, for a slower and open-ended transition.

specialist who has worked to identify fossil fuels in protected areas for the non-profit Leave it in the Ground Initiative, said preventing the extraction of those fuels could prevent trillions of dollars in damages from climate change. It's also essential to stay within the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit of warming since pre-industrial times called for in the Paris Agreement, she said.

"It is clear that the vast majority of fossil fuels must stay unburned.

The International Energy Agency has pointed to the incompatibility of new fossil fuel extraction projects with the Paris targets and keeping fos-sil fuels in the ground has been described as the next big step in climate policy," she said. Soumya Dutta, a researcher and activist, described the potential impact of coal mining in a central Indian forest that is home to a diverse ecology and tribal communities. Some mining has already taken a toll on Hasdeo Arand, a forest of about 1,700

"The impact would be felt not just on the indigenous groups but on the biodiversity too," Dutta said. "Hasdeo Arand forest alone is home to 82 species of birds, 167 varieties of vegetation, out of which 18 are considered threatened and endangered butterfly species. The forest is a habitat and a major migratory corridor for elephants, and has had confirmed sightings of tigers."

With most of India's energy coming from coal and oil, it's reluctant to commit to phasing out completely, said Dutta, a key coordinator with the Indiabased Movement for Advancing Understanding on Sustainability And Mutuality (MAUSAM), a coalition of more than 40 organisations and networks working on sustainability.

# **Thousands protest in Brussels** calling for better wages

**AP** BRUSSELS

¬housands of protesters gath-▲ ered Tuesday in the capital of the European Union, calling for better public services, salaries and living conditions. The protest in downtown Brussels took place during EU negotiations over the new Stability and Growth Pact, which aims to limit debt and deficits for member countries. Nations seeking to spend their way out of a crisis would instead implement a set of economic policies such as budget cuts and tax increases. But critics say the policy, known as austerity, won't work

The European Trade Union Confederation, which represents 45 million members, claims the planned reinstatement of the Stability and Growth Pact will force 14 member states to cut a combined 45 billion euros (\$49 billion) from their budgets in the next year alone. ETUC General Secretary

Esther Lynch said a return to austerity "would kill jobs, lower wages, mean even less funding for already over-stretched public services and all but guarantee another devastating recession". Inflation in Europe dropped more than expected to 2.4% in November, the lowest in over two years, bringing some relief to households severely hit by the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

But the economy has stalled this year, even shrinking 0.1% in the July-to-September quarter, according to Eurostat, the 27nation bloc's statistics agency. The Stability and Growth Pact, which has often proved difficult to enforce and has served as a source of tension, was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic but is set to be reactivat-

Current rules stipulate that member states' total public debt must not exceed 60% of their gross domestic product, and their annual deficit must be kept

According to the latest EU figures, the highest rates of government debt to GDP were in Greece with 166.5%, Italy with 142.4%, and four other nations also breaking the 100% mark.

"Austerity has been tried and it failed. It is time to learn the lessons of the past and ensure the EU's economic rules put the wellbeing of people and the planet before totally arbitrary limits," Lynch said.

With 2024 European elections looming and a rise of the far-right across the continent, the ETUC also warned that "the far-right is the main beneficiary of the type of fiscal policies being proposed".

### Police seize live animal in global wildlife trafficking operation

tined for the pet trade, egg har-

vesting or as a source of meat

while the wildlife parts are used

for jewellery or rituals.

Paris (AP): Interpol and the World Customs Organization (WCO) said Tuesday they seized 53 primates, four big cats and more than 1,300 birds, as well as some 300 kilograms of ivory, thousands of turtle eggs, and rhino horns, leopard skins, and lion teeth and paws in their sweeping annual crackdown on wildlife and timber trafficking that this year covered 133 countries. Interpol said it coordinated around 500 arrests worldwide from October 2 to 27. More than 2,000 confiscations of animals and plants were made. This year's operation marks the highest participation in Operation Thunder since its inception in 2017. The live animals were des-

# face masks amidst COVID-19 wave **PTI** SINGAPORE

Doctors in Singapore are calling on people to vaccinate and to put on a face mask to reduce the usual year-end increase in acute respiratory infections, including COVID-19, influenza and the common cold.Both Healthway Medical, the largest general practice chain with more than 120 clinics, and Parkway Shenton with 55 GP clinics, say they have seen a 30 per cent increase in respiratory infections, according to a report by The Straits Times on

Raffles Medical with 43 GP clinics has also noticed an increase in such ailments, the report added. The latest Ministry of Health (MOH) data for the week ending December 2 showed an average of 2,970 cases a day at Singapore's 25



median of 2,009 daily cases for 2018 to 2022 for this time of the vear. While this is lower than the 3,000 to 3,500 a day in the prepandemic years, it comes on the back of almost three years of low infection rates due to precautions taken against COVID-19.In 2020 and 2021, polyclinics were seeing fewer than 1,000 cases a day in early December.

Polyclinics treat about 20 per cent of acute cases in the primary care setting, with the 1,800 GP clinics handling the rest. For the same week, more

than 32,000 people were diagnosed with COVID-19 — about 460 were hospitalised and nine needed intensive care, adding significantly to the bed crunch at public hospitals. Professor Hsu Li Yang, an

infectious diseases expert at the National University of Singapore's Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, said: "During this holiday season, as upper respiratory tract infec-tions including COVID-19 cases rise, it is important to be mindful of others. Wear a mask in crowded places, stay home if unwell, and get the latest flu jab as well as a COVID-19 booster to avoid disrupting your travel plans." Dr Jonathan Tan, a famadded: "We usually see more respiratory infections during the year-end. However, this year we are seeing an even larger increase in the number of upper respiratory tract infec-"Fortunately, the majority of

ily physician at Healthway,

cases are mild and can be treated in an outpatient setting," he said. He too advised staying updated with Influenza and Covid-19 vaccinations and to mask up, especially in crowded places, as this can reduce the chances of catching air-borne bugs.Covid-19 vaccines are free in Singapore, as is the Influenza vaccine for those who have signed up for Healthier SG, the national scheme introduced in 2023 to encourage people to stick to one family doctor who can provide preventive care to keep them healthy.

# 23 soldiers killed in terror attack | Pakistan court acquits Nawaz in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

t least 23 Pakistani sol-Adiers were killed on Tuesday when militants linked to a Pakistani Taliban affiliate rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into a security forces' post in restive Khyber-Paktunkhwa province, the army said, in one of the worst terror attacks targeting security forces in recent years.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations, the media wing of the army, six terrorists attacked the security post in Dera Ismail Khan's Daraban area bordering the South Waziristan tribal district in the early morning hours. "The attempt to enter the post was effectively thwarted which forced the terrorists to ram an explosive laden vehicle into the post, followed by a suicide bombing attack. "The resulting blasts led to the collapse of the building, causing multiple casualties," it said.

Twenty-three Pakistan Army soldiers wre killed while all six terrorists were "effectively engaged and sent to hell," the ISPR said. It added that sanitisation operations were being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist present in the area. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthens our resolve," the



the outskirts of Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan, on Tuesday

ISPR said. An emergency was declared in district hospitals while all schools and colleges were closed due to the attack. The Tehrik-e-Jihad Pakistan (TJP), a newly formed militant group that is an affiliate of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), claimed responsibility for the attack. TJP spokesperson Mullah Qasim termed the attack a "suicide mission" (Fidayein).

Separately, 17 terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation in the Darazinda area of Dera Ismail Khan, the army said. "During the conduct of operation, terrorists' hideout was busted and 17 terrorists were sent to hell," the military's media

An army soldier examines damages on the site of a bombing at a police station on 'The ISPR further stated that two soldiers were killed

while four more terrorists

were neutralised in another

IBO in the Kulachi area. The killed terrorists were actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as killing of innocent civilians. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered during the operation," the statement said. The TJP terror outfit has been behind some major attacks in Pakistan.

On November 4, the TJP militants attacked the Pakistan Air Force's Mianwali Training Air Base, some 300 km from Lahore, damaging three grounded aircraft. All the attackers were killed in the

a day after 17 soldiers were killed in three separate terror strikes in the country. In July this year, the TJP militants attacked Zhob Garrison in the restive Balochistan

province, killing four soldiers and wounding five others. Pakistan has been facing a rise in violence in the wake of the Taliban seizing power in Afghanistan in August 2021. Throughout this year, terrorists and separatists have been targeting security forces in Pakistan. The terrorists have repeatedly attacked the security and military installations in Pakistan.

In September 2015, Taliban gunmen killed 29 people, including 16 praying in a mosque, when they stormed Badaber air base, close to the northwestern city of Peshawar. It was the deadliest Taliban attack on a military installation in Pakistan's history. Among those killed were 22 serving officials of the Pakistan Air Force, four civilians and three army soldiers responding to the attack. The 13 gunmen were also killed in the attack.

In May 2011, 15 terrorists belonging to TTP and Al Qaeda attacked PNS Mehran, the headquarters of the Pakistan Navy's Naval Air Arm, located in Sindh and killed 18 military personnel and wounded 16. Two American-built surveillance aircraft were also destroyed.

# Sharif in corruption case

The Islamabad High Court on Tuesday acquitted Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in the Al-Azizia Steel Mill corruption case, removing a major legal hurdle in his way to leading his party in the upcoming elections.

Sharif, 73, was sentenced to seven years in jail and imposed a heavy fine by an anti-corruption court in December 2018 after he failed to convince the court that he had nothing to do with the steel mill set up by his father in 2001 in Saudi Arabia.

He has already been acquitted in the Avenfield case in which he was convicted in July 2018 and sentenced to 10 years in Jail. He also got relief in the Flagship corruption case in which he was declared innocent by the court in 2018 but the acquittal was challenged in the IHC by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). A division bench compris-

ing IHC Chief Justice Aamer Faroog and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the appeal against conviction by the anti-corruption court in 2018 in a case filed by the NAB, the national accountability watchdog. During today's hear-ing, Sharif's lawyer Amjad Pervaiz said that no evidence was presented against and he was asked to prove his innocence. He said there was no previous assets case where the accused was convicted without



Pakistan's former PM Nawaz Sharif, centre, in brown coat, waves to his supporters as he leaves after a court hearing in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Tuesday

presenting clear proof of ownership. "The prosecution could not present a single piece of evidence. Therefore, the burden of proof cannot be transferred onto the accused," he said as he wrapped up his arguments.

The chief justice asked why the NAB prosecutor failed to produce. "You were the prosecutor. Tell us what evidence you possess. Tell us on what basis you transferred the burden of proof onto the accused," he said. The NAB asked to send back the case to the trial court for its re-trial but it was rejected by the court.

At the end of the hearing, the court granted the appeal by Sharif on merit, meaning that he was acquitted in the Al-Azizia corruption case which was based on the charge of asset beyond means. The former premier was present at the time of the hearing and should

have been relieved by the decision by the court. It is the same division bench that acquitted Sharif in the Avenfield corruption case on November 29.

With the latest acquittal, Sharif has been exonerated in all three cases, including the Avenfiled case, Flagship case and Al-Azizia case.

Sharifs were living in exile in Saudi Arabia at the time the mill was set up after the former military ruler Pervez Musharraf toppled the government in 1999 and bundled out of the country the former first family. Sharif's son Hussain Nawaz was the administrative head of the mill. The NAB maintained that the mill was established by using the corruption money Sharif accumulated during his rule, a charge he denied while saying that part of the funds for the facility were provided by the Saudi government.

### **Hearing of cipher** case against Khan, Qureshi adjourned

Islamabad (PTI): A Pakistan special court hearing the cipher case against former prime minister Imran Khan and ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday adjourned the trial till Hussday adjourned the trial till Wednesday without indicting the two leaders. Judge Abual Hasnat Zulgernain conducted the proceedings of the case in Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi where the two leaders are incarcerated in the case, which is based on the allegation that is based on the allegation that a diplomatic document sent by the Pakistan embassy in March last year was mishandled by Khan and Qureshi and they violated the secret laws of the

The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) charge sheet alleges that the document was never returned by Khan. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has long held that the document contained a threat from the United States to oust Khan as prime minister. Khan's party in a WhatsApp message said that the hearing was adjourned till Dec 13 (Wednesday) "without indictment". The two leaders were earlier indicted in the case on Oct 23 but the process was nullified by the Islamabad High Court (IHC). Judge Zulqernain said at the last hearing on Dec 4 that a fresh indictment was mandatory in the light of the IHC judgment which declared all proceedings illegal after ruling against the jail trial on procedural

### Xi calls for 'mutually acceptable solutions' to resolve SCS row

PTI BEIJING/HANOI

On a key visit to pacify Vietnam amid rising tensions in the disputed South China Sea, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday struck a reconciliatory tone, saying that both Beijing and Hanoi should find "mutually acceptable solutions" to resolve the differences. Xi, 70, arrived in Hanoi on

Tuesday for a two-day visit, his first after six years to hold intense round talks with fellow Communist leaders from Vietnam to woo them with a host of new deals, including a new rail project, amid Hanoi's rising profile in the global markets and its growing strategic ties with the US. Vietnam is attracting substantial foreign tional companies moved supply chains from China over apprehensions of security-related issues.

As he landed in Hanoi with his wife Peng Liyuan to a rousing welcome, Xi called for Beijing and Hanoi to find "mutually acceptable solutions" to their South China Sea dispute and achieve long-term regional stability. China and Vietnam have "camaraderie plus brotherhood" and should always keep in mind our shared visions and missions". Xi was quoted as saying in an article published in Hanoi mouthpiece Nhan Dan.

"Both sides need to act on the common understandings reached by the leaders of our two parties and countries, properly manage differences on maritime issues, and jointly look for mutually acceptable solutions," Xi said

Xi's Vietnam visit assumed significance as it coincided with increasing tensions between China and the Philippines, with several confrontations between Chinese and Philippine vessels in recent

days. Vietnam, The Philippines,

Japanese court on Tuesday

Aconvicted three former sol-

diers in a sexual assault case

that authorities had dropped

until the victim, a former ser-

vice member, came forward

demanding a reinvestigation,

prompting a military-wide

harassment probe and chal-

lenging a still male-dominated

society. The Fukushima

District Court sentenced the

former Japanese army soldiers

to two years in prison but sus-

pended the sentences for four

years — meaning they won't



arrival at Noi Bai International airport in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Tuesday

have counterclaims over the South China Sea. For its part, China claims most of the South China Sea, which now has become a new theatre of confrontation. The confrontation between the Philippines Navy and Chinese coast guard vessels is becoming a daily occurrence. On Monday, both countries summoned their envoys and lodged protests and counter-protests over aggressive movements of their naval ships. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Monday that besides attempts to "occupy" areas in the South China Sea, the Philippines has also been spreading disinformation to hype up the incidents between the two navies.

"This gravely violates international law and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and seriously infringes on China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said. The Philippines has also restored its close ties with the US under the Presidency of Bongbong Marcos.

low Communist country after six years, Xi also wants to shore up ties as Hanoi buried the hatchet of the liberation war and moved closer to the US amid its festering dispute with Beijing. After landing in Hanoi, Xi held talks with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong, besides President Vo Van Thuong, and also met Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh.

Xi's trip to Vietnam comes after a rare visit by US President Joe Biden to Hanoi in September during which both the countries, much to the chagrin of Beijing, agreed to upgrade their ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, turning the page over their bitter war during Vietnam's independence movement. Vietnam is seen as a tough neighbour in China as it fought a border war with it in 1979, inflicting heavy casualties and remained steadfast in opposing Beijing's expansive claims over the disputed South China Sea, besides attracting foreign investments from

# no role in choosing leaders of Pakistan'

Washington (PTI): Ahead of general elections in Pakistan, the US has asserted that it plays no role in "choosing" the leaders of the country and deals with elected leaders and the government. "The United States does not play any role in choosing the leaders of Pakistan," Matthew Miller, spokesperson of the Department of States told reporters here. Miller was answering a pointed question on Monday by an American Pakistani journalist, who alleged that the US brought "this old corrupt criminal leader" – referring to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif - back into Pakistan, and said the US "at politicians."

The journalist referred to multiple reports published by a newspaper in Pakistan, which he claimed, were never challenged or condemned by the US. "In Pakistan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, three-time prime minister - The Frontier Post had published stories about him taking money from Osama bin Laden to disrupt the Benazir government. The story was not condemned. Taking state lands - the story was not condemned or challenged in any court. Sending money internationally, basically financial money laundering thing - the story was never challenged," he went on to list the

instances. "At least condemn that, okay, the US had no role in (cricketer turned politician, former Pakistan prime minister) Imran Khan's removal, but at least say something about that a Panama Paper convict has come back to Pakistan," he continued to list and then said, "American

Pakistani Americans - are upset at (US President Joe) Biden for being silent about it. They feel like you have brought this old corrupt criminal leader

Japan court convicts three ex-servicemen in sexual assault case

coming back to - so at least condemn the corrupt politicians," the journalist said.

After maintaining that the United States "does not play any role in choosing the leaders of Pakistan," Miller added, "We engage with the leadership shown by - or the leadership decided by the Pakistani people, and we will continue to engage with the Government of Pakistan on all these issues."

Pakistan is headed to the general elections scheduled to be held on February 8. After ending his self-imposed four-year exile in London, Sharif returned to Pakistan on October 21 and case after case that was pending for many years. On the other hand, Khan has been incarcerated in multiple cases since August this year and has been facing adverse decisions/judgments from various courts in

Pakistan. Sharif's political opponents have claimed that he has been allowed to enter Pakistan after an arrangement with the top Army brass. The powerful Pakistan Army, which has ruled coup-prone Pakistan for more than half of its 75-plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy. Incidentally, the State Department's comment comes at a time when Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir is on his maiden official visit to the US since assuming office in November last year. The army chief, during his visit, is scheduled to meet senior military and other government officials. His visit comes a day after the conclusion of a two-day stay of US Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West in Pakistan," Geo News reported

## 'United States plays | Zelenskyy arrives in Capitol Hill as Biden's aid package risks collapse

Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived on Tuesday on Capitol Hill to a darker mood than when he swooped in last winter for a hero's welcome, as the Russian invasion is grinding into a third year and US funding hangs in the balance. Zelenskyy's visit to Washington comes as President Joe Biden's request for an additional \$110 billion US aid package for Ukraine, Israel and other national security needs is at serious risk of collapse in Congress. Republicans are insisting on strict US-Mexico border security changes that Democrats decry as draconian in

exchange for the overseas aid. "It is maddening," said Senator Chris Coons, a close sage to the world, to the Ukrainian people."

The White House said the time was right for Zelenskyy's trip to Washington as Biden pushes lawmakers to approve the aid package before the year-end holidays. A top spokesman said the US can't let Ukraine aid lapse, especially as the Israel-Hamas war has taken attention, and that the president was willing to make compromises Republicans. "This additional funding will absolutely help Ukraine claw back even more of their territory and kick the Russians right out of Ukraine," said the White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby on NBC. But the prospects for a deal on Ukraine funding turned grim at the Capitol on the eve of Zelenskyy's arrival. He made no comments as he entered a private meeting with senators. He was next scheduled to visit new House Speaker Mike Johnson, then talk with Biden at the White House as the once robust bipartisan support for Ukraine was slipping further out of reach.

high-stakes meetings, the White House late Monday pointed to newly declassified intelligence that shows Ukraine has inflicted heavy losses on Russia in recent fighting along the Avdiivka-Novopavlivka axis — including 13,000 casualties and over 220 combat vehicle losses. The Ukrainian holdout in the country's partly-occupied east has been the centre of some of the fiercest fighting in recent weeks.

US intelligence officials have determined that the Russians think if they can achieve a military deadlock through the winter it will drain Western support for Ukraine and ultimately give Russia the advantage, despite tained heavy losses and have been slowed by persistent shortages of trained personnel, munitions and equipment. "It is more critical now than ever that we maintain our support for Ukraine so they can conregain their territory," said White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson. She added that Russian President Vladimir Putin "is clearly watching what happens in Congress — and we need Congress to act this month to support Ukraine in its time of

Republicans in Congress, fueled by Johnson's far-right flank in the House, have taken on an increasingly isolationist stance in US foreign policy, demanding changes to American border and immigration policies in exchange for any funds to battle Putin's war in Ukraine. Biden has expressed a willingness to engage with the Republicans as record highs along the US-Mexico border, but Democrats in his own party oppose proposals for expedited deportations and strict asylum standards as a return to Trump-era hostility towards migrants.



इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 6606/13PIU-03/2023 date 01-11-2023 द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना में निविदायें, जो दिनांक 11.12.2023 से http://www.uktenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध होनी थी, अपरिहार्य कारणों से



Tender Enquiry No.307/SS(D)-360/RDSS/Spares Dated 11-12-2023 Dy. CE/ Substation (Design) / TS Organization, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invite E-tender for manufacture, Testing and supply of Marshaling Boxes. For detailed NIT 8 Tender Specification please refer to https://gem.gov.in from 14-12-2023 (11:00 AN

onwards). Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://gem.gov.in C-894/23

76155/12/2496/2023/30545 Dated CHD :- 12/12/2023

### Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whateve there is" basis on 16.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 23,75,236/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Six only) pending towards the Loan Account No. HHLNOD00428582, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 04.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 05.12.2023 along with lega penses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SANDEEP and

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 15,05,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Five Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,50,500/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand Five Hundred only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. S. F-2 (M. I. G) ON SECOND FLOOR (RIGHT HAND FRONT SIDE) WITH ROOF RIGHTS, HAVING TOTAL AND COVRED AREA OF 500 SQUARE FEET I. 6 VIHAR", VILLAGE LONI, PARGANA AND TEHSIL LONI, DISTRICT GHAZIABAD GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH. FLAT NO. S. F-2 IS BOUNDED AS

ROAD 9 METER WIDE FLAT NO. S. F-3 (L. I. G) PLOT NO. F-12

COMMON PASSAGE AND FLAT NO. S. F-1 (L. I. G)

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Authorized officer Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

actually serve time in prison. Still, the ruling is a rare victory in a country that consis-

tently ranks near the bottom in sexual harassment and other international gender equality surveys and where sexual misconduct complaints are often disregarded and victims tend to face criticisms for speaking up. The case filed by Rina Gonoi in August 2021 was initially dropped. Nine months later, she came forward and demanded the case be reinvestigated, saying the experience caused her to give up her military career. Gonoi said she has been attacked on social media for coming forward, but that she did so because she wanted to prevent similar problems for other female service members.

Her revelation prompted a military-wide investigation into

abuse allegations in September 2022, and prosecutors reopened her case. The Fukushima court said Tuesday her three former supervisors — Shutaro Shibuya, Akito Sekine and Yusuke Kimezawa — each pressed the lower part of their bodies against her at an army training facility in August 2021, and it found them guilty of indecent assaults. The three defendants had

pleaded not guilty, denying any intent of indecency even though they admitted to pushing her down onto a bed, NHK television said. In response to Gonoi's revelations, the Ground Self Defense Force in

some of the misconduct and apologized, and then fired five servicemen, including the three defendants, while punishing four others. The three defendants at

September 2022 acknowledged

that time offered a written apology, which Gonoi later said lacked sincerity. The three men said during their criminal trial that they had apologized because the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) ordered them to do so, according to Kyodo News agency.

A panel of experts that investigated harassment cases in Japan's military and the Defense Ministry said earlier this year it found widespread supervisors to deal with the problems and recommended fundamental improvements. Defense Minister Minoru

Kihara told reporters earlier Tuesday that such harassment cannot be tolerated as service members work together to strengthen Japan's military capability. Women comprise 8.7 per cent of Japan's military, which is second lowest among the Group of Seven advanced nations. The number compares to more than 17 per cent in the United States, more than 16 per cent in France and Canada, 13 per cent in Germany, and 6 per cent in

Gonoi, who was inspired to coverups and reluctance among join the army after surviving the March 2011 massive earthquake and tsunami in her hometown in Miyagi prefecture as a child, was first assigned to a Fukushima unit in April 2020. But she quickly became a target of sexual misconduct, she said. Her male superiors repeatedly asked about her breast size, hugged her and made unnecessary physical contact, such as trying judo

techniques on her, Gonoi said. She has separately filed a damage suit against the three defendants, two other perpetrators and the government, saying she felt their earlier apologies were insincere.

# No GST dues pending: Sitharaman

# Some States have not submitted AG's report, says Finance Minister

**◄**he Centre on Tuesday said no GST dues of any state L are pending before it and that some state governments have not submitted AG's authenticated certificate for release of their share of funds

The narrative that GST dues are pending from the Centre is not correct and is a "misnomer" as states have not submitted AG's report, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said replying to a supplementary question in Rajya Sabha.

"It is important to understand that if the AG's (accountant general) certification is (mandatory)... If the AG's certificate does not reach us, we can not clear,"

Some states, even after sending AG's certificate, tell us to hold on till they clear it finally, she said. The finance minister was responding to a question from Trinamool Congress member Saket Gokhale, who asked about the GST dues of states, especially to West Bengal. He also sought a reason for which the GST dues of the states were withheld.

ne pioneer

Replying to it, the finance minister said she would specifically name some states "so that there are no doubts in the mind of the

Goa has not submitted AG's certificate for FY 2017-18, FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20. It is also yet to send the report for FY 2021-22 and the first quarter of FY 2022-23.

"For 2022-23 no state, except for Karnataka, has given AG's certificate as yet," she said.

West Bengal has also not submitted AG's report from FY 2019-20 to the first quarter of FY 2022-23.

"AG's certificate has not come from West Bengal, so the amount would not be released," she said, adding, "to call it pending, I am sorry, its a misnomer. Let them send AG's certificate, we will clear it?

There are several other states which have not submitted AG's



'Kerala has sent us AG's certifi cate but has also told us to hold on till they reconcile the numbers with AG themselves. So we are holding on. It is not pending from our side," she added. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, who was

also in the house, said there are no GST dues of any state govern-ment. It has already been given to the concerned states.

Even some states have not sent their AG's report, despite that we have made some provisional payments. Once AG's report is received, they will receive final

payment," he said. Congress member Rajiv Shukla raised the issue of misuse of arrest provisions and wanted to know the steps that the government is going to take for simplification of the GST filing proce-

Replying to it, Sitharaman said the finance ministers of state governments, which are part of the GST Council, are being told about the difficulties faced by traders and the business communities on the ground.

The GST Council does discuss these things and periodically the forms are being simplified accordingly," she said.

Over the misuse of authority by local officers exceeding his brief, Sitharaman said action had been taken by the council.

The finance minister further said she would welcome any member who thinks that there are difficulties faced on the ground, particularly officers who are exceeding their briefs, she would be happy to receive and take action against them.

## '10 PSBs transferred NPAs of ₹11,617 crore to NARCL from January, November'

PTI NEW DELHI

Atotal of 10 Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have transferred Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of over Rs 11,617 crore to NARCL between January and November this year, the Finance Ministry said on

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) has recovered Rs 16.64 crore as on November 30,

He said recovery in NPA accounts is an ongoing process, and security receipts issued to lenders by NARCL, backed by government guarantee, provide a five-year time window for effecting the recovery in such accounts

"Further, corporate insolvency resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code is going on in some of the accounts acquired by NARCL. Recovery will be effected in Bank at Rs 2,138 crore and Rs

these accounts after the resolution plans get approved by the National Company Law Tribunal. In remaining accounts, NARCL has recovered Rs 16.64 crore, as on 30.11.2023," Karad

NARCL is bad bank, which buys NPAs, or bad loans, from

As per details of the debt assigned to the NARCL by these 10 PSBs, as on November 30, SBI has transferred the largest amount of Rs 4,508 crore, followed by PNB, and Canara

1,858 crore, respectively. Únion Bank of India has trans ferred Rs 1,831 crore to NARCI

between January and November The other PSBs include Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank, Indian Bank, and Indian

Overseas Bank. These 10 PSBs had aggregate gross NPAs of over Rs 3.65 lakh crore as of September 30, 2023, as per the data shared by Finance Ministry to the Rajya

### SpiceJet posts ₹446 crore consolidated loss in September quarter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

SpiceJet on Tuesday reported a narrowing of consolidated loss of Rs 446.09 crore in the three months ended September, mainly as the crisis-hit carrier reduced overall expenses.

The consolidated results include the financials of nine sub-

On a consolidated basis, the airline recorded a total comprehensive loss of Rs 446.09 crore in the latest September quarter. In the year-ago period, it stood

at Rs 829.98 crore, according to a regulatory filing Total income was at Rs 1,725.81 crore, lower than Rs 2,101.79

crore posted in the same period During the latest September quarter, total expenses dropped

to Rs 2,175.24 crore from Rs 2,935.02 crore in the year-ago period. In a separate release, the carri-

er said its net loss narrowed to Rs 428 crore in the three months ended September this year whereas the net loss was at Rs 835 crore in the same period a

However, the airline did not a standalone or a consolidated

In the 2023 September quarter, the airline said it has settled dues with aircraft lessor Castle Lake and repaid Rs 100 crore loan taken from City Union Bank. Also, there was debt to equity conversion with Carlyle Aviation Partners by allotment of over 4.81 crore equity shares at a price of Rs 48 per share leading to reduction of debt of over Rs 230 crore, it said in a separate release "The July-September quarter has historically been a challenging period for the aviation industry. This year, the challenges were further compounded by elevated fuel prices impacting operational costs. SpiceJet, however, has been proactive in implementing costsaving measures and remains focused on adapting to the dynamic market conditions, SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh

# Many people unaware that they lost personal data in cyber attacks: Rubrik CEO

t least one in three people At least one in the range in the around the world have lost their personal data in a cyber attack and they are not even aware of it, claimed a survey of more than 1,600 companies from the industry.

IT and security related decision makers at companies of 500 or more employees participated in the survey conducted by Wakefield Research on behalf of

cyber security firm Rubrik. Bipul Sinha, CEO and cofounder of Palo Alto-based firm Rubrik, said that in the last 30 years of cyber security, the industry has focussed on prevention of attack, but now there is a need to build a strategy around cyber resilience assuming that the attacks on the organisation system will happen. "The world over collectively cyber industry is earning collectively USD 200 billion in a year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sales of nano liquid urea stood at 6.76 crore bot-

tles of 500 ml during

August 2021-November

2023 period, the govern-

In a written reply to Rajya

Sabha, Minister of State for

Chemicals and Fertilisers

Bhagwanth Khuba said

the government has noti-

fied nano urea in the Fertilizer Control Order

"Three nano urea plants at Kalol, Phulpur and Aonla with capacity of 17 crore bottles

(500 ml each) per annum have been set up by IFFCO," the min-

The government is not directly

involved in setting up of nano urea plants, he said.

"However, fertiliser companies

have decided to set up six more

(FCO), 1985.

ister said.

ment said on Tuesday.

6.7 crore 500 ml bottles of

Aug 2021-Nov 2023: Govt

nano liquid urea sold during

and what is kind of depressing is, as per our Rubrik Zero Lab report that one in three people around the world have lost their personal data in a cyber attack and they don't even know about it," Sinha told PTI.

The report cited by Sinha was compiled based on Wakefield Research survey conducted in 10 countries, including the US, UK and India, between June 30 and July 11 this year. According to the report, over

half (53 per cent) of external organizations surveyed experienced a material loss of sensitive information in the last year, with about one out of every six organizations (16 per cent) experiencing multiple losses in 2022. In India, 49 per cent of IT leaders feel that security is a missing component in their organization's data policy, while 30 per cent see their organizations at a high risk of material loss of sensitive data within the next 12

nano urea plants in the coun-

As per the data, sales of

nano urea during August

2021 to March 2022 stood

at 2,12,13,280 bottles. Sales

were 3,25,35,338 bottles

Nano urea sales have been 1,38,77,154 bottles during

April-November period

Total sales of nano urea

during August 2021 to November 2023 stood at

In June 2021, Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Coope-

try," Khuba said.

during 2022-23.

of this fiscal year.

6,76,25,772 bottles

rative Ltd (IFFCO) launched the

world's first nano urea fertiliser

and now it has developed nano DAP (di-ammonium phos-

A 500-millilitre bottle of nano

urea liquid will replace at least

one bag (45kg) of conventional



months. Sinha said it is not possible to

prevent the unpreventable. You can't have a 100 per cent

stop on an attack. Businesses need to have a new strategy around cyber resilience which assumes that attacks will happen. Every business is collecting data. "Data is growing. IT leaders

The domestic power sector imported 35.3 million

tonnes (MT) of coal during the

April-October period of the current fiscal, Parliament was

informed on Tuesday. Of the

total imports, the import-based

power plants or the plants that

run on imported coal brought in

21.7 MT coal, according to the data shared by Union Minister

RK Singh in the Rajya Sabha.

For the blending purpose, the

thermal plants imported 13.6 MT of coal, the Minister for

around the world are saying that data is far exceeding their ability to secure it," he said. Rubrik Zero Lab report said a

typical organization's data has grown 42 per cent over the last 18 months, with SaaS (software as a service) data driving the most growth overall (145 per cent), followed by cloud (73 per

'Power sector imports 35 MT coal during

April, October; 13.6 MT for blending'

cent) and on-premises (20 per

Rubrik Zero Lab predicted that the total volume of data a typical organization needs to secure will increase by almost 100 BETB (Back-end Terabyte) in the next year, and by 7 times in the next five years.

Sinha said that with IT leaders in some organisations admitting their inability to secure rising amounts of data, the situation has become "dire" and there is a need for companies to adopt cyber resilience as part of their cyber security strategy.

As per the report, 34 per cent of Indian IT leaders agree that their ability to manage risk to data security has not kept pace with their growth in data.

Around 54 per cent of Indian companies believe artificial intelligence (AI) adoption will pos-itively impact their ability to secure sensitive data, while 24 per cent foresee no impact.



Benchmark stock indices closed lower on Tuesday due to profit taking by investors after a record-breaking rally and ahead of release of key inflation numbers.

After a two-day rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 377.50 points or 0.54 per cent to settle at 69,551.03. During the day, it declined 484.68 points or 0.69 per cent to 69,443.85.

The Nifty declined by 90.70 points or 0.43 per cent to 20,906.40. In intra-day trade, it hit a record high of 21,037.90. Key stock indices had settled at following buying by foreign investors

Among the Sensex firms, IndusInd Bank, Maruti, Titan, Reliance Industries, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Kotak Mahindra Bank and HDFC Bank were the major laggards. UltraTech Cement, JSW Steel,

Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro and ITC were the major gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo,

Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the postitve territory.

European markets were trading mostly in the green. The US markets ended with gains on Monday.

"Following the recent impressive surge, the Nifty-50 has undergone a consolidation phase today due to anticipated elevated November inflation in India, driven by rising food prices, which may potentially delay RBI policy cuts. In contrast, the US inflation outlook remains stable, which could influence the upcoming US Fed policy," said Vinod Nair, Head of

Global oil benchmark Brent USD 76.33 a barrel on Tuesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,261.13 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.
The BSE benchmark surged past the 70,000-level for the first time on Monday, reaching its

Research, Geojit Financial

record intra-day peak of 70,057.83. It ended at 69,928.53, registering a gain of 102.93 points or 0.15 per cent.

The Nifty gained 27.70 points or 0.13 per cent to settle just below the 21,000 level at 20,997.10, its all-time closing high.

### PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Godrej launch a luxury housing project in Gurugram with an estimated revenue potential of around Rs 3,000 crore as it seeks to encash a rise in demand for premium residential properties.

The company will develop nearly 750 apartments in a 9.5-acre housing project 'Godrej Aristocrat' located at Sector 49 in Gurugram. The starting price is around Rs 4 crore per unit.

According to real estate consultants, Godrej Properties has started seeking expresEnergy said. During the preceding 2022-23 fiscal, the total import was 55.6 MT, of which import-based plants imported 20.5 MT coal and the remaining 35.1 MT thermal power plants. Thermal power plants need coal

to produce power. Till October 2023, Singh said 10,47,439 million units of power were produced in India. He also informed that about 19.79 crore pre-paid consumers'

smart meters are planned to be deployed across states. These states/UTs also plan to

ution transformer (DT) smart meters and 1.88 lakh feeder smart meters under the RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme). The scheme will continue up to

FY 2025-26. The target of the scheme is to reduce AT&C losses to pan-India levels of 12-15 per cent and eliminate the ACS-ARR (Average Cost of Supply and Average Realizable Revenue gaps by 2024-25. This would help bring financial viability to the Discoms and improve the power sector as a whole.

Godrej Properties eyes ₹3,000 crore revenue

Sachin Gawri said, "Housing

demand in Gurugram is good,

especially from end-users.

Prices have risen sharply in

six months of this fiscal, the Delhi-NCR market contributed sales of Rs 3,186 crore. Its housing project 'Godrej Tropical Isle' at Sector 146, Noida, alone contributed

Last month, Godrej Properties Executive Chairperson Pirojsha Godrej told PTI that "Delhi-NCR is a big market for us. We are planning to launch housing projects in Noida, Gurugram and also Ashok Vihar, Delhi, during the current and next quarter Pirojsha Godrej had said that the company was focusing on the launch and timely execution of new housing projects across major cities.



### **VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK CONCLUDES**

Faridabad: Valedictory function of the Vigilance Awareness Week was held at POWERGRID, NR-I, RHQ, Faridabad in a remarkable manner. During the Valedictory Ceremony, distinguished Chief Guest, Sh. Sharad Kumar, DIG, CISF, Faridabad graced the occasion and Sh. A.K. Mishra, ED (NR-I) welcomed the Chief Guest. A.K. Mishra, ED, NR-I briefed the significance of celebration of Vigilance Awareness Week, as it coincides with the birthday of the Bismarck of India, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel as he represents the best values in the Indian tradition so far as the Governance is concerned. He emphasized the need for the employees to follow the principle of transparency, value of ethics & amp; truthfulness in their life sphere. The art of good governance is based on accountability. responsiveness, and transparency. Digitalisation should be adopted extensively to bring in transparency and aid in curbing corruption

### Passenger vehicle wholesales grow in November

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

phate)

Domestic passenger vehicle wholesales rose by around 4 per cent year-on-year in November, driven by robust demand for utility vehicles, industry body SIAM said on Tuesday. Passenger vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers rose to 3,34,130 units last month, the best ever figure for the month of November, from 3,22,268 units in same month last year

Two-wheeler sales rose to 16,23,399 units last month, a growth of 31 per cent as compared to 12,36,282 units in November 2022. Similarly, three-wheeler dispatches also rose to 59.738 units last month, registering an increase of 31 per cent over 45,664 units in last November.

### from new luxury housing project in Gurugram sions of interest (EOI) from potential homebuyers and already received more than 1,200 EOIs.

Market sources said the company is expecting to generate revenue of around Rs 3,000

crore from this project. Real estate consultant Anarock Vice Chairman Santhosh Kumar said the Gurugram housing market remains buoyant despite a sharp appreciation in prices.

In March, DLF Ltd sold 1,137



luxury apartments, priced Rs 7 crore and above, in its housing project in Gurugram for over Rs 8,000 crore within three days.

Property brokerage firm RISE Infraventures Ltd co-founder

the city, so investors have become a little cautious". During the April-September period of 2023-24, Godrej Properties has achieved 48 per cent growth in its sales bookings to Rs 7,288 crore from Rs 4,929 crore in the year-ago

period.
Out of the total sales booking of Rs 7,288 crore in the first

sales of Rs 2,016 crore.

# Employers in India most bullish globally on hiring in 2024 March quarter: Survey

orporate India's hiring Csentiment for the next three months is one of the highest across the world, with 37 per cent of employers planning to increase their staff strength amid buoyant domestic demand conditions, says a survey.

According to the latest Manpower Group Employment Outlook Survey of nearly 3,100 employers

across sectors and regions, the Net Employment Outlook (NEO) in India is the highest amongst 41 countries.

The outlook for January-March 2024, calculated by subtracting the percentage of employers who anticipate reductions to staffing levels from those who plan to hire, stood at 37 per cent, up 5 per cent from the corresponding period of 2023, and same when compared with the last



buoyant, and private investments continue to flow in making India a lucrative economy. With stability in the political arena, progressive India is not a dream but a reality," Sandeep Gulati, Managing Director of ManpowerGroup India and Middle East, As per the survey, India and

"Domestic demand remains

the Netherlands reported the strongest net employment outlooks at 37 per cent, followed by Costa Rica and the US at 35 per cent in second place, and Mexico at the third position with 34 per cent of the net employment outlook. The global average stood at 26

### **JUNIOR WORLD CUP HOCKEY**

# India sweep aside Dutch to cruise to semis

 $I^{
m ndia}$  produced a spectacular display of grit and character to advance to the semifinals with a thrilling 4-3 win over the Netherlands in the hockey men's Junior World Cup here on Tuesday. Trailing 0-2 at half-time and 2-

3 in the third quarter, India exhibited immense resilience to beat the Dutch in the quarterfinal and set a last four clash

against Germany. The Netherlands set the ball rolling early in the first quarter with a penalty corner conversion from Timo Boers (5'). Despite the Indian side playing a solid defence, Pepijn van der Heijden (16') scored for the Netherlands in the second

quarter through another penalty corner conversion taking their lead to 2-0 at half-time. India came back strongly in the third quarter with a goal from Aditya Lalage (34') assisted by Araijeet Singh Hundal.

Two minutes later Araijeet scored the equaliser for India with a penalty stroke. The India colts kept the pressure on the Dutch but they managed yet another penalty corner that was converted by Olivier Hortensius (44') late in the third quarter as the Netherlands snatched a narrow lead of one goal at the end of the third quarter.

With less than ten minutes remaining, the Indians raised the tempo of their game and it proved fruitful as Sourabh



Anand Kushwaha (52') found the back of the net off a rebound following a brilliant attack to get the score reading

Another opportunity for a penalty corner conversion was created, this time in favour of India and they made full use of it with captain Uttam Singh (57') scoring to put India ahead with just three minutes left. India colts victory was backed by a grand show of character to hold off pressure from the Dutch side, and the cynosure of India's defence was Rohit who was hard to breach - as he blocked away six successive PCs in the final quarter ensuring India emerge victorious. He was awarded player of the match for his efforts.

when PSG was the guest team.

Saudi Arabia has made a

major push to be a big player

in world soccer by signing some of the game's biggest players amid allegations of

sportswashing. But it couldn't lure Messi to the oil-rich king-



### Chanu set to miss **Asian Championships**

PTI NEW DELHI

Injured Mirabai Chanu's return to the weightlifting arena has been further delayed as the Olympic silver medallist is set to miss the Asian Championships in February next year.

Chanu, who competes in the 49kg weight class, is still recovering from the hip tendinitis injury she sustained in October while competing at the Asian Games.

The former world champion, who did not lift any weight at the ongoing IWF Grand Prix II, was earlier targeting to get

fit by the Asian Championships, scheduled to take place from February 3 to 10 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. "I will not participate in the Asian Championship this time. Instead, I will participate in the World Cup," Chanu told PTI on Tuesday

Under the Paris Olympic qualification rules, a lifter has to compulsorily compete in the 2023 World Championships and the 2024 World Cup, slat-ed from March 31 to April 11 in Phuket, Thailand

Apart from the above, the lifter also has to participate in three of the following events - the 2022 World Championships, the 2023 and 2024 Continental Championships, the 2023 Grand Prix I and the 2023

Chanu, who is undergoing rehab in Patiala, is also planning to travel to the USA in February to work with Dr. Aaron Horschig, a former weightlifter-turned-physical therapist and strength and conditioning coach in the US. Chanu has been consulting Horschig since 2020.

Right now because of injury, I have not planned for a trip abroad. But most likely in February, I will travel to the USA to my physiotherapist to do muscle strengthening and some high performance train-

'I feel more comfortable with my trainer in the US to do training. He helps me a lot, my overall performance also gets better. A foreign coach is not needed. A good physiotherapist can help you train well," she added.

the Missing Championships will not hamper Chanu's qualification chance. The 29-year-old is currently ranked second in the Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR). The list will be updated after the conclusion of the Grand Prix II.

"I am still in rehab at Patiala. But I am trying my best to change the colour of the medal this time around and give my best for sure to make the Indian flag fly high in Paris."

# **Injured Ali misses cut** in Asian Cup probables



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will be missing its key central defender Anwar Ali because of his ankle injury in the upcoming AFC Asian Cup in Qatar starting from January 12. Owing to a fracture sustained on his right ankle, the 23-year-old central defender has been excluded from the 50-member India probables named on Thursday.

A key member of head coach Igor Stimac's defence, Anwar's injury will upset the Croat's plans as he has taken a gamble to include mid-fielder Jeakson Singh in the

probable. The Kerala Blasters footballer too is down with an injury (shoulder) as it remains to be seen if he makes the final cut of 23 ahead of their Asian Cup opener against Australia on January 13.

defence is expected to be helmed by Sandesh Jhingan, Pritam Kotal and Subhasish

Anwar's Mohun Bagan Ashique teammate Kuruniyan, who is down with an ACL injury, has not been named in the probables on expected lines.

India, 102 in the FIFA rankings, is the lowest rung side in its Group B as Stimac's task is cut out to make the Round of 16.

After taking the world No 25 Australia, the Stimac-coached Blue Tigers will face Uzbekistan (January 18), and Syria (January 23) The side will be pruned to 25 members before they head to Doha for the national camp beginning on December 30.

India Probables Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Vishal Kaith, Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem and Gurmeet Singh Chahal. Defenders: Naorem Roshan

Singh, Bikash Yumnam, Lalchungnunga, Sandesh Jhingan, Nikhil Poojary, Chinglensana Singh, Pritam Kotal, Hormipam Ruivah, Subhasish Bose, Asish Rai, Akash Mishra, Mehtab Singh, Rahul Bheke, Narender Gahlot and Amey Ranawade.

Midfielders: Suresh Singh Wangjam, Rohit Kumar, Brandon Fernandes, Udanta Singh Kumam, Yasir Mohammad, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, Anirudh Thapa, Sahal Abdul Samad, Glan Martins, Liston Colaco, Deepak Tangri, Lalengmawia Ralte, Vinit Rai, Ninthoinganba Meetei and Naorem Mahesh Singh. Forwards: Sunil Chhetri, Rahim Farukl Choudhary, Nandhakumar Sekar, Siva Sakthi Narayanan, Rahul KP, Ishan Pandita, Manvir Singh, Kiyan Nassiri, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Gurkirat Singh, Vikram Partap Singh, Bipin Singh Thounaojam, Parthib Gogoi and Jerry Mawihmingthanga.

# Messi vs Ronaldo will happen on February 1

**AP** ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (US)

ionel Messi and Cristiano L'Ronaldo will meet in Saudi Arabia after all.

Inter Miami confirmed Monday that it will take part in the Riyadh Season Cup something that was announced by Saudi officials on Nov. 21. Inter Miami said the reports at that time were inaccurate. Inter Miami will play Al-Hilal on Jan. 29 and Al Nassr -

Ronaldo's team - on Feb. 1. Those two clubs lead the Saudi Pro League and Ronaldo is that league's leading scorer.

"These matches will offer important tests for our team, which will benefit us as we approach the new season, Inter Miami sporting director Chris Henderson said. "We're excited for our group to get the chance to go up against teams with as much quality as Al-Hilal and Al Nassr."



off 35 times between matches for club and country, Inter Miami said, with Messi's teams winning 16, Ronaldo's teams winning 10 and the sides settling for a draw on the other nine occasions. Messi has 21 goals and 12 assists in those

Messi and Ronaldo have faced matches; Ronaldo has 20 goals and one assist.

Messi has promoted tourism in Saudi Ārabia and in May was suspended by former club Paris Saint-Germain for making an unauthorized trip to the on Jan. 19 and a match against country. He also played in this year's Riyadh Season Cup Kong on Feb. year's Riyadh Season Cup

WTA chairman Simon will relinquish his CEO duties

**President Lawler is leaving** 

dom when he left PSG at the end of last season, with the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner opting to move to Major League Soccer instead. Messi and Ronaldo are widely considered to be two of the greatest players of all-time and competed against each

respectively. Inter Miami now has four preseason matches announced, with one against the El Salvador national team

other for soccer's biggest prizes

tion to a planned change in rules governing mandatory

**AP WASHINGTON** 

Steve Simon will relinquish his CEO duties at the women's tennis tour while staying on as Executive Chairman under an organizational restructuring of the WTA announced Tuesday that he said has been in the works for several months and is not connected to player complaints that emerged during the season-ending championships

The upcoming changes in leadership will include the hiring of a new CEO who will report to Simon - as will the CEO of WTA Ventures, the commercial enterprise with CVC Capital Partners that was formed this year - and the departure of President Micky Lawler, who will not be replaced. Simon said he thinks "our preference is" to "find a female candidate" for the CEO position. He has led the WTA since succeeding Stacey Allaster in 2015; Lawler was in her role since

"My focus will go to, obviously, governance. Managing the Working directly with the CEOs of the daily business of the tour. I'll be able to spend more time on the geopolitical issues that remain very prevalent to the sport and do affect the business," Simon said in a video interview with The Associated Press and BBC from the WTA offices in St. Petersburg, Florida. "I will spend more time working on the strategic direction of the organization and the challenges that face the organization."

He said that women's tennis has seen significant financial growth during his tenure.

"I believe we were a \$64 million husiness in '16 and \$128 million business this year," Simon said. "And we're due to double that by 2027 with our current business plan projec-

There also have been difficult issues, such as the suspension and, later, return - of events in China over concerns about the well-being of former player



Peng Shuai; the coronavirus pandemic; and ongoing uncertainty about the staging of the WTA Finals.

During this year's edition of that event, which was held in Cancun, Mexico, from Oct. 29-Nov. 6 after the site was not announced until September, players complained about the temporary outdoor court created for the competition. Thenthe conditions "another level of disrespect.

Players outlined various other concerns in a letter to Simon and during two meetings with tour leadership. Among the topics were establishing a guaranteed income and coverage for maternity leave and injury absences, along with an objectournament appearances. We started these discussions (about changing the WTA

leadership structure) in the summer time, so they're not tied to anything that happened in Cancun or ... The perception that it hasn't been the easiest of years," Simon said. He said with "the combined

role" of CEO and Chairman, some things at some point in time. There's just only so many hours in the day that you can get to," so he thought it "makes a lot of sense to have somebody to deal with the day-to-day business, and ... I can deal with more of the higher-level issues that obviously take a lot of time.

### **Rahm suspended by PGA Tour**

# Formality a boon for Mackenzie Hughes and Carl Yuan

**AP** NEW YORK

The PGA Tour has notified Jon Rahm he has been suspended for signing with Saudi-funded LIV Golf, a formality that is more about the benefits to the players Rahm leaves behind.

Mackenzie Hughes and Carl Yuan are the immediate beneficiaries of Rahm's decision last week to sign with the rival

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan in a memo to play ers Monday afternoon said Rahm's suspension "due to his association with a series of unauthorized tournaments' removes his name from the FedEx Cup eligibility points list. That means Hughes goes from No. 51 to No. 50, and now is eligible for all seven of the \$20 million signature events in 2024. It also means Yuan, who was signed up for Q-school this week, moves up one spot to No. 125 and has a full PGA Tour

card for next year. The tour last year distinguished between the FedEx Cup standings and a separate list related to eligibility for the postseason and for status. The distinction was so players defecting to LIV would not have a negative impact on those who stayed



Among those who benefited last year were Rickie Fowler, who got into the postseason because of all the players who left for LIV; and Jimmy Walker and Rory Sabbatini, who moved up on the career money list and were able to use onetime exemptions to keep full

This year, Hughes narrowly missed out on the top 50. He kept his 51st position through the fall, which only would have guaranteed him spots in the first two \$20 million events. Now the Canadian can count on the likes of the Wells Fargo Championship in his home residence of Charlotte, North

Carolina Alex Smalley goes to the No. 60 spot and now is assured of two \$20 million events. The changes also affect Paul Haley, who moves to No. 150 and now

has at least conditional status. And it could effect Sahith Theegala. He finished No. 31 to narrowly miss the Tour Championship. He moves up to No. 30, which could make him exempt for the U.S. Open. This year, the U.S. Open recognized the top 30 who were eligible.

The movements were allowed because the new season has not started. If more PGA Tour players leave for LIV before the end of the year, that could lead to more changes

Social media had been buzzing about the possibility of Tony Finau - he and Rahm are close friends - also leaving for LIV. Finau took to Instagram on Monday night that recapped his year and said he was "looking forward to playing my 10th season on the PGA Tour." "See y'all in Maui!" he concluded, adding the hash tag,

"imnotleaving."
Monahan also said in the memo that the policy board and management recently met with a group of players upset that signature events will offer  $\ \, \text{disproportionately more FedEx}$ Cup points than the other events, leading to concerns it will be difficult for players outside the top 50 to fairly compete.



# Iga first woman since Serena to win WTA Player of Year twice in a row

AP ■ ST. PETERSBURG (US)

Iga Swiatek's second consecutive season-ending No. 1 ranking helped her collect a second consecutive WTA Player of the Year award, making her the first woman since Serena Williams to claim that honor twice in a row.

Williams, who retired last year, was the WTA Player of the Year every season from 2012-15, the final four of the seven total times the American claimed that award. Swiatek went 68-11 in 2023

with a tour-leading six titles, including at the French Open in June. That was Swiatek's third championship at Roland Garros and fourth overall at a Grand Slam tournament. The 22-year-old from Poland wrapped up the season with an

undefeated run at the WTA

Finals in Cancun, Mexico, last

month, which allowed her to

overtake Aryna Sabalenka atop

the rankings. Swiatek held the No. 1 spot from April 2022 until this September, before regaining it to close the year. In other WTA awards announced Monday, Zheng Oinwen of China was the Most Improved Player of the Year, Mirra Andreeva of Russia was the Newcomer of the Year, Elina Svitolina of Ukraine was chosen for the Comeback of the Year and Tomasz Wiktorowski - who works with Swiatek - was the Coach of the

Storm Hunter of Australia and Elise Mertens of Belgium earned Doubles Team of the Year, Ons Jabeur of Tunisia was the recipient of both the Karen Krantzcke Sportsmanship Award and the Peachy Kellmeyer Player Service Award, and Jessica Pegula of the U.S. Was given the Jerry Diamond ACES Award for her off-court promotional and charitable activities.

# 1 in 5 players at **Women World Cup** abused online: FIFA

**AP** ■ ZURICH

Players at the Women's World Cup were 29% more likely to receive online abuse than those at the men's tour-nament in 2022, said a report

published on Monday. One in five players (152) at the Women's World Cup received "targeted discriminatory, abusive or threatening messaging," according to FIFA and global players' association FIFPRO. They released data from FIFA's Social Media Protection Service (SMPS), which tries to help shield players, teams and officials from online abuse

and hate speech. Almost 50% of "detected and verified" abusive messages were homophobic, sexual and sexist, SMPS added.

"The abuse that persists online impacts football players all over the world and it cannot be ignored. This toxic online environment is a risky place to be in for players and it affects their mental health and wellbeing," FIFPRO president David Aganzo said. "Football has a responsibility to protect the players around their work-

The SMPS was launched last year and has been used in eight FIFA tournaments. It uses artificial intelligence to



try and prevent abuse on participants' social media feeds. The report analysed abusive content from all the major social media platforms during the Women's World Cup cohosted by Australia and New Zealand in July and August. FIFA said 5.1 million posts and comments in 35 different languages were analysed. More than 400,000 comments were reported and hidden.

"There can be no place on social media for those who abuse or threaten anyone, be that in FIFA tournaments or elsewhere," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said.

### **Ashwini, Tanisha** climb to world number 24 in **BWF** rankings

PTI NEW DELHI

Riding on their remarkable run in the last two weeks, Indian women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto climbed four places to reach world number 24 in the latest BWF ranking issued on Tuesday.

Ashwini, 34, and her 20-year-old partner Tanisha, who joined hands in January this year, secured their third women's doubles title and the second Super 100 crown with a straight game win over Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui in the final of the Guwahati Masters on Sunday.

The Indian pair, who had finished runners-up at the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament in Lucknow, now has 44,590 points from 16 tournaments.

Another Indian women's doubles pair of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly remained static at world no. 19 with 49,435 points from 19 tournaments. Lakshya Sen moved a place to world number 17, despite not competing in the last two

Asian Games champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty remain India's best placed shuttlers at world number 2, followed by HS Prannoy (8) and PV Sindhu

# **EXCITED TO WORK WITH** MILLER, NGIDI, SHAMSI: BOND

PTI ■ PAARL (SOUTH AFRICA)

Royals head coach Shane Bond is "excited" at the prospect of working with top Proteas stars like David Miller, Tabraiz Shamsi and Lungi Ngidi during the second edition of SA20, starting January 10.

The opening match of season 2 will be played between Sunrisers Eastern Cape and Joburg Super Kings at St George's Park in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth)

"I will be coming back to South Africa after a gap of 10 years so I'm really excited as it's a really

**PTI** BRIDGETOWN

Pacer Chris Woakes conceded that England took a fair

call by leaving him out of the

Test series against India given

his record in the sub continent.

The 34-year-old was not

included in England's 16-

member squad for the five-

match Test series, starting January 25 in Hyderabad and

Woakes said he was at ease

"It's mixed emotions," Woakes

was quoted as saying by

"Whenever there's a Test squad

announcement, you're always

desperate to be in it. But at the

same time, at my age, with my

away record - particularly in

the subcontinent - I feel like it's a fair decision," he added.

Woakes has done well in home

conditions, boasting of a bowling average of 21.88 but it bal-

loons to 51.88 overseas. In the

three Tests in India in 2016,

Woakes managed only three

"We had conversations about

where my best cricket is like-

ly to be played moving forward

and naturally in Test cricket, it

"It doesn't mean to say that

when there's not subcontinent tours that I won't be available.

But I feel at ease with the deci-

sion, if that makes sense. The

communication was good, I

know where I stand so it's fine

The last time Woakes played

an away Test series, it didn't go

so well. In the absence of vet-

erans James Anderson and Stuart Broad, Woakes had

been promoted to the role of

an opener. But he could man-

age only five scalps in three

Tests at an average of 48.80.

"I tried to bowl my heart out

and really struggled with my

body. My knee was sore at the

time, I ended up having

surgery after that and I missed

six months of cricket." Woakes

feels missing the tour of India

could help extend his career.

"I wouldn't want that to be the

same case going to India,

bowling on tracks which are

unresponsive to my type of

bowling; slamming the front

looks likely to be at home.

wickets at a cost of 81.3.

with the decision.

'ESPNCricinfo'

(BARBADOS)

It was a fair

decision: Woakes

New Zealand legend, Bond said "I'm really excited at the opportunity of working with the Miller's, Ngidi's and Shamsi's in our set-up. The passion and popularity for cricket is obviously huge in South Africa, especially when you talk about white ball competitions like the SA20," he

Joburg Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming, who also is the head coach of the mother franchise CSK, spoke about being able to retain the core built during the first year.

"We have retained our core from last year and made some fresh additions to the squad via cool place to play cricket," the the auction. We're looking for-

knee down at 34 is not really

ideal when I want to play a lot

of white-ball cricket moving

"It's different when that's just

your sole focus but when you

want to play all forms, it makes

Vaughan suprised by Woakes omission

Former England skipper

Michal Vaughan believes the

all-rounder deserved to be

"It tells you England think he can't bowl in India, it's as sim-

ple as that. I'm staggered by it

really," Vaughan told foxs-

That you've got a player that

came into the Ashes with

Mark Wood and they were 2-

0 down against Australia in

forward.

it a wise decision.

part of the squad.

ports.Com.Au.

impact.



competitive campaign this year," Fleming said.

Durban Super Giants coach Lance Klusener is also certainly ready to get cracking.

The first step to that is to make the play-offs. We have a very well-balanced squad of players to challenge any team on any surface. I am looking forward to the challenge," Klusener said. Pretoria Capitals coach Graham Ford is equally excited to get the

new season underway.
"Our aim will be to further expand and develop the exciting and enjoyable brand of cricket produced by the Capitals in Season 1," Ford said.

or four governing bodies that

can afford to host women's Test

The England batter said she does

not expect ICC to be investing

That will have to be a very big

investment from the ICC, I do

not think they are probably willing to put into," she said.

Beaumont advocated the coun-

tries to have more matches dur-

ing a bilateral tour and get

other nations like Pakistan, Sri

Lanka and New Zealand play-

They are still trying to devel-

op the T20 game across the globe, the way you have seen

Thailand and other countries

come into T20 cricket. I think that should stay as a focus, however, I would love to see

more nations do maybe like a

multi-format series like we do in

ing more women's Test cricket

into any such tournament.

cricket," Beaumont said.

# Raj takes 7/13 as **India beat Nepal** to enter semis

Seam bowler Raj Limbani bowled an incisive spell to record the brilliant figures of 7/13 as India cruised to a 10wicket victory over Nepal to clinch a semi-final berth in the U-19 Asia Cup cricket tourna-

After shooting out Nepal for just 52 runs in 22.1 overs, courtesy Limbani's superb performance, all-rounder Arshin Kulkarni (43 not out), kept the IPL scouts interested with five huge sixes to knock off the runs

in just 7.1 overs.

mid 120s, didn't let any of the

Nepalese batters settle down and pitched it up, getting sufficient movement.

However Limbani's 7/13 isn't the best effort by an Indian bowler in U-19 internationals as former pacer Irfan Pathan had astounding figures of 9/16 against Bangladesh in the Junior Asia Cup in Lahore, back in 2004.

The top scorer for Nepal was Hemant Dhami (8), whose two boundaries got the team past 50-run mark. The chase was never a problem and opener Arshin tonked the

Nepal bowlers for fun and also sent a message to the IPL recruiters that he is one of the newcomers on whom everyone should keep a close eye on. Arshin has already scored 70 not out and took three wickets in the opening game against Afghanistan but didn't make much of a mark against

Pakistan. On the day, he was in a mood to entertain his dug-out while making mockery of a small tar-get after getting a wicket with

Brief Scores: Nepal U-19 52 in 22.1 overs (Raj Limbani 7/13). India 52/0 in 7.1 overs (Arshin

**U-19 ASIA CUP** 

ment here on Tuesday.

Having lost to arch-rivals Pakistan by eight wickets in an earlier game, India colts, led by Uday Šaharan, needed to win their final league game to qualify for the knock-out stage and they absolutely dominated the proceedings against the boys from Himalayan nation. Nepal were already out of contention after losing both their group league game but their worst was saved for the last with none of their players getting into double digits.

Limbani, the lanky 18-year-old right-armer from Baroda, who primarily bowls inswingers at his bowling.

Kulkarni 43 not out).

# Mandhana bats for Women WTC

### But Engand's Beaumont says long way to go

NAVI MUMBAI, DEC 12 (PTI)

India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana on Tuesday welcomed the idea of organising a World Test Championship in women's Test cricket, but England veteran Tammy Beaumont said it would be unfair to have such a competition when only three countries are playing regularly. In men's Test cricket, the ICC's

World Test Championship began with 2019-2021 as the first two-year cycle. It is currently in its third edition. The women's game, however, does not have any such competition. There is a huge disparity among women's teams in terms of playing Test cricket as only England, Australia and India have played in the longest format regularly even though there is a long gap. "I would love to be a part of the

World Test Championship but that is for the boards and the ICC to decide," Mandhana told the media ahead of India's training session here on Tuesday. "Having watched a lot of men's

Test cricket and championships that would be really exciting to be a part of something of that sort. But as I said, that would be their (administrators') decision," she added. India and England will face-off

Thursday at the DY Patil Stadium. It will be after two years that the hosts will be playing a Test. For England, the gap has been of about six months since they

in a one-off Test starting here on

last played Tests, taking on Australia in the opening game of the Women's Ashes which they lost by 89 runs. The 32-year-old Beaumont, who

still not the right time for a women's WTC given the existing disparity in terms of number of matches played. "I do not think it is quite the

her debut 10 years ago, says it is

right time, if I am honest. At the moment there is only three or four nations that are playing Test The 32-year-old Beaumont, who has featured in eight Tests since match cricket regularly and potentially (there are) only three

the Ashes," she said

# 'England may get blown away'

#### **And absolutely** destroyed: **Vaughan issues** warning ahead of **India Tests**

**PTI** ■ LONDON

 $F_{\text{Vaughan has issued a warn-}}^{\text{ormer skipper Michael}}$ three Test matches. To think a few months later (he's left out), nic all-round ability he upcoming five-Test series in well, fields well and I guess they just feel he has been in those India, saying their Bazball conditions before in the past approach may get "absolutely and he's not going to have an destroyed" against the lethal spin attack of the hosts.

Woakes had played a vital role as England fought back from England's aggressive approach, termed as Bazball named after their head coach Brendon 0-2 to draw the Ashes 2-2 earlier this year. The pacer was McCullum, has created a lot of buzz in the cricketing world in adjudged the player of the series during the Ashes earlithe last one and a half years with the team winning 13 of er this year. their last 18 red-ball games. "They are clearly thinking it's going to be a five-match series But Vaughan pointed out how England struggled against

where spin is going to play a prominent part. I think England are thinking

they are probably only going to play two seam bowlers and with that Woakes is not the kind of seamer they are going to require in Indian conditions



Ashes when Nathan Lyon was

foxsports.Com.Au.

against Bazball.

Australian spinner Nathan you look at that five-for he got Lyon during the Ashes and said at Edgbaston and the field was the strategy may not work in spread and England got out to "Ultimately the hardest place to him by playing ridiculous shots play in the world is India and if you actually go back to the at times.

fit and bowling nicely, Australia were 2-0 up in the series," Vaughan

'That was just one innings and

a few overs in the first innings at Lords... Nathan came out with a lovely line the other week where he said he's 2-nil up "Now that's just one spinner, if

England will play five Tests in

India as part of their ICC World Test Championships cycle starting on January 25 in

Hyderabad "If you add in Ashwin, Jadeja and Axar Patel on spinning wickets in India, they may get blown away, they may get absolutely destroyed.

"They will go out and play exactly the same way, we've already spoken about the impact they are going to try way they play.
"It will be great watching, but

you will have to fancy three quality spinners might do a job on England when one quality spinner in Nathan Lyon did the job in English conditions. It's going to be very tough for them to win in

England on Monday named four specialist spinners -- Jack Leach, teenage leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed and uncapped duo of Tom Hartley and Shoaib Bashir, in the 16-member squad for the Test series in

After Hyderabad, England will play the rest four Tests in Visakhapatnam, Rajkot, Ranchi and Dharamsala respectively.

Newcastle rise under Saudi ownership

Faces big test with Champions League future on the line

### Turkey suspends all league games After club president punches referee at a top-flight match

**AP** ■ ANKARA (TURKEY)

The Turkish Football Federation has suspended all league games in the country after a club president punched the referee in the face at the end of a top-flight match. MKE Ankaragucu president

Halil Umut Meler on the pitch tle, following a 1-1 draw in a Super Lig game against Caykur Rizespor. The referee, who fell to the ground, was also kicked in a

Faruk Koca attacked referee

melee that occurred after fans also invaded the pitch after Rizespor scored a last-minute equalizer. The federation announced it suspended all league games

indefinitely after an emergency meeting was held to discuss the violence. Meler was hospitalized with a

slight fracture near his eye but was not in a serious condition. He was expected to be discharged on Wednesday. Koca, who was considered to be

at risk of a heart attack, was also hospitalized overnight. He was



Twitter. A couple of suspects accused of kicking Meler were also arrested, while three others were freed from custody on condition that they report regularly to

Yilmaz Tunc announced on X,

the platform formerly known as

police During his questioning, Koca denied causing any injury, insist-ing that he merely slapped the referee, according to HaberTurk

The club president also blamed the incident on Meler, whom he accused of "wrongful decisions" and provocative acts, the station reported, citing unnamed judicial officials. This attack is unfortunate and

shameful in the name of football," federation chief Mehmet Buyukeksi said after the emergency meeting. We say enough is enough," he

added, insisting that all involved in the violence would be punished.

Buyukeksi also blamed the attack on a culture of contempt toward referees in Turkey.

### **AP** ■ NEWCASTLE (ENGLAND)

Newly flush with Saudi Arabia cash, Newcastle United has chosen to tread a strategic and methodical path in its bid to reach the summit of the European game under the richest owners in soccer. The club is encountering some teething problems by playing the slow game.

Qualifying for the Champions League last season arguably came ahead of schedule for Newcastle and manager Eddie Howe, and they're struggling to juggle the demands of playing in Europe's top competition while also keeping up with their rivals in the Premier League.

With a relatively shallow squad hit by a spate of injuries and running on empty amid a packed fixture schedule, the team has dropped to seventh in the league following backto-back losses last week and, on Wednesday, faces the very real prospect of being elimi-

### nated from the Champions League before the knockout stage.

Newcastle hosts AC Milan with both teams on five points, a couple behind second-place Paris Saint-Germain and five adrift of already-qualified Dortmund. Borussia Newcastle needs a win at St. James' Park and for PSG to draw or lose against Dortmund in Germany to seal a top-two finish and advance to the prequarters.

Lose, and Newcastle would be out of Europe completely, not even dropping into the Europa League playoffs courtesy of a third-place finish in the group.

It's a huge night for the northeast team and its Saudi owner-



ship - the Public Investment Fund - following the 300-million-pound (then USD 409 million) purchase of the club

in 2021 that invited accusations of sportswashing amid scrutiny of the kingdom's human rights record.

Failing in the Champions League, the biggest show in club soccer would be an early blow to its new-found status as a major disruptor for the established elite. Maybe it shouldn't come as a

surprise, though. After all, Newcastle was placed with three storied opponents in the toughest group in the Champions League, meaning every match has been a big occasion for a club playing in the competition for the first time in 20 years.

Coupled with that is an absentee list of which Howe has never seen the likes before. Sven Botman, Dan Burn, Callum Wilson, Harvey Barnes, Sean Longstaff, Jacob Murphy, Nick Pope and Elliot Anderson are among those who are or have been injured, while offseason signing Sandro Tonali was banned for 10 months in October for breach-

ing betting rules. Against Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday, Newcastle fielded the same 10 outfield players for the fifth straight game and looked to be running on empty as it slumped to a 4-1 loss.

"Physically, we looked fatigued," Howe said, "and there was not much we could do about it. We're not aflush with options."

Given their wealth, they could

All the talk after the 2021 takeover was which of soccer's so-called "galacticos" would be heading to Newcastle. Kylian Mbappe? Erling Haaland? Neymar?

When Manchester City came under Abu Dhabi ownership in

2008, its first signing was a jawdropper - Robinho, a flamboy-ant Brazil winger at the time. Newcastle's first arrival in the Saudi era? Kieran Tripper, a solid English right-back. Indeed, Newcastle's transfer strategy has been sensible

rather than spectacular, with the new owners keeping within financial limits in their slow build and operating like a normal club when it clearly isn't anymore. Newcastle, having joined the

ranks of the state-owned clubs, will likely be a force at the top of English and European soccer for years to come - but maybe not this season, given the scenario it currently finds itself in

And, failing to qualify for the pre-quarters could have serious consequences, potentially preventing England from earning five entries - instead of the current four - to next season's Champions League, when the competition extends to 36

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