OPINION 6

DECIPHERING THE VERDICT

ON ARTICLE 370

WORLD 9

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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY DECEMBER 28, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Army will wipe out terrorism: Rajnath

ldiers must not only secure nation, but also win hearts of

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

Minister efence Rajnath Singh Wednesday said that must safeguard national interests and also win the hearts of the people while discharging Addressing gathering of troops in one of the forward locations in Rajouri, he emphasised, "The

Indian Army is not an ordinary army. Soldiers are our protectors, tasked not with safeguarding national interests but also with winning the hearts of the people." Referring to a recent terrorist

strike on Army vehicles, Rajnath Singh remarked, "Such incidents (ambush) cannot be taken for granted. I acknowledge your alertness to the situation, but heightened vigilance is required. I want to assure you that the government stands with you, and your welfare is our top priority.

In an apparent reference to the killing of three civilians, the Defence Minister urged the troops to avoid "mistakes that harm the citizens of the

As one of the senior-most Cabinet ministers in the Narendra Modi-led Union Government, Rajnath Singh's visit to the border area was



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during an interaction with Army personnel in Rajouri on Wednesday

significant. He made all-out the efforts to pacify aggrieved members of civilian families. incidents in the sector as unfortunate and urged all ranks to undertake operations based on hard intelligence, following established procedures and aided by niche technology. He also urged all Commanders to have zero tolerance for violations of the well-Standard established Operating Procedures.

Defence Minister exhorted the troops to remain extra vigilant to prevent He described the recent untoward incidents in the future, reiterating that there should be zero tolerance for terrorism. Lauding the role of the Indian army, Singh expressed full faith that the Indian Army would eradicate terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing the troops at a military garrison in Rajouri, the Defence Minister "I believe in your Sounding a word of caution, bravery and steadfastness...

Terrorism should eradicated from Jammu and Kashmir, and you need to move forward with this commitment. I have full faith that you will achieve victory." Singh paid tribute to the fallen soldiers and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured personnel. "I want to assure you that given the seriousness of the incident, required and appropriate steps will be taken. For us, every soldier is a part of the

family, and his life is very

precious. Anyone eyeing our

soldiers is not acceptable to us," he said. "The government treasury is open for further beefing up security and intelligence gathering," he added. "The sacrifice of the soldiers is unparalleled and cannot be compensated with money. The void can never be fulfilled," he added.
During his day-long visit,

Rajnath Singh also conducted a first-hand assessment of the prevailing situation and counter-terror operations in

Continued on Page 2

Empowering lives our mission: Modi

From farmers to members of self-help groups, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with a diverse group of beneficiaries of various government schemes on Wednesday as part of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. The yatra is being undertaken across the country with the aim of achieving saturation of government flagship schemes, ensuring that the benefits reach all targeted beneficiaries in a timely manner. Prime Minister Modi connected with a diverse group of beneficiaries participating in the Sankalp through Yatra conferencing.

The event saw thousands of participants from various corners of the country, including Union ministers, MPs, MLAs, and local

representatives. According to an official the statement, Prime began Minister Sapna acknowledging Sapna Prajapati from Kota, Rajasthan, a beneficiary of the SVANidhi scheme who played a crucial role in maskmaking during the pandemic. Praising her for her digital business transactions, Modi highlighted her group's promotion of millets, an initiative applauded by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Modi encouraged women



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra via video conferencing in New Delhi on Wednesday

entrepreneurs like Sapna to leverage the Vishwakarma Scheme and contribute to the success of "Modi ki Guarantee ki Gaadi".

"Your collective 'Matru Shakti' will take you to new heights, and I ask all of you 'didis' to make 'Modi ki Guarantee ki Gaadi' a great success by informing people about the benefits they can avail," Modi was quoted as saying in the statement. Continuing the engagement,

he greeted Harikrishan, a farmer from Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu, who has successfully embraced modern agricultural practices.

The farmer, a beneficiary of various government schemes, including Ayushman Bharat Yojana, commended the introduction of Nano Urea and the support provided by the government.

Modi reiterated government's commitment to stand with farmers and appreciated their adoption of modern techniques, according to the statement. Further, the Prime Minister extended greetings to Gurdev Singh from Haridwar, involved in both farming and fisheries. Singh shared his success story under the Matasya Sampada Yojna, which doubled his income. Emphasising the importance animal husbandry, fisheries, and the blue revolution, Modi reiterated the government's commitment to augmenting farm income innovative practices. In another inspiring story, Rubina Khan from Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, a member of a self-help group, shared

her entrepreneurial journey.

Continued on Page 2

Separatist Muslim League Jammu Kashmir banned

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday declared a faction of the Muslim League in Jammu and Kashmir, led by separatist leader Masarat Alam Bhat, as a banned organisation under comes in response to the outfit's involvement in anti-national and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, with the intent to create a reign of terror in the country, the Union Home Ministry said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while announcing the ban under the UAPA, emphasised that the Modi Government's message is clear: those who act against the unity, sovereignty, and integrity of the nation will face the full wrath of the law and will not be spared.

'The Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) is declared as an 'Unlawful Association' under UAPA. This organisation and its members are involved in antinational and secessionist activities in J&K, supporting terrorist activities, and inciting people to establish Islamic rule in J&K," Shah said in a post on 'X'.

Masarat Alam Bhat is known for his anti-India and pro-Pakistan propaganda. He became the chairman of the hardline faction of the Hurriyat Conference following the death of Syed Ali Shah Geelani. Currently, he is incarcerated.

Continued on Page 2



Israel calls embassy blast possible terror attack

Hours after a suspected explosion outside the Israel Embassy in New Delhi and a letter addressed to the ambassador at the site. Tel Aviv has issued a travel advisory for its citizens in India, suspecting that the blast near the embassy was "a possible terror attack". An advisory issued by Israel's National Security Council urged Israeli citizens in India, particularly those in New Delhi, to avoid crowded locations such as malls and markets

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police intensified their probe into a low-intensity blast that occurred near the Israel Embassy here, and sources said two youths were caught on camera walking on the road close to the spot shortly before the explosion.

The National Security Guard (NSG) along with forensic experts visited the spot on Wednesday morning and collected samples of leaves and grass that

they suspected might contain chemicals used in the explosion, police sources said, adding a team of dog squad by the NSG

also inspected the spot.
The advisory issued by Israel's National
Security Council advised Israeli citizens in India to maintain increased vigilance in public places, including restaurants, hotels, and bars, and avoid displaying Israeli symbols. It further cautioned Israeli nationals to avoid participating in "events with many participants that are not secure" and to refrain from posting details of their trips on social media, both

before the journey and in real-time. Forensic experts have used magnetic gadgets to detect the intensity of the blast. CCTV footage has been recovered from near the spot in which two youths were found walking on the road shortly before the blast. "It is yet to be ascertained whether they are suspects," sources said.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi grapples with zero visibility

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

mid cold wave in Delhi Amid cold wave in Semand National Capital Region (NCR), with the temperature at 7.8 degrees Celsius, slightly higher than usual, visibility in various parts of Delhi was significantly affected on Wednesday morning. Dense the early hours, causing nearly zero visibility and posing

challenges for residents. An orange alert, calling for the residents to remain prepared, was issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) across the city at 8 am as visibility in many parts remained around 50 metres. IMD advised people to use fog lights during driving, cover up the face while going out, avoid outings unless emergency, and be in touch with airlines, railways, and State transportation ahead of the scheduled journey. IMD further advised the power department to keep maintenance teams ready as chances of tripping are high

during dense fog. The IMD advisory further said dense fog contains particulate matter and other pollutants and, in case exposed, it gets lodged in the lungs, clogging them and decreasing their functional capacity which increases episodes of wheezing, coughing, and shortness of breath. This also impacts peo-



Commuters on a foggy morning in Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri I Pioneei

ple having asthma, bronchitis, and causes eve irritation leading to various infections, leading to redness or swelling of the

The visibility in Delhi's main weather station Safdarjung was recorded at 50 metres while in Palam it stood at 125 metres at 8.30 am.

Several trains and flights have experienced delays in their operations due to the pervasive fog. IMD classifies fog intensity into four types: shallow, moderate, dense, and very dense fog. The visibility ranges from 999m to 500m, 499m to 200m, 199m to 50m,

and < 50m, respectively. "Very dense fog engulfed Delhi NCR. Visibility is almost nil at many places. At 07:30 hours Palam reported 50 metres visibility. Take care and drive carefully. Improvement expected after 11 am," Skymet official Mahesh Palawat said in a post

The air quality index (AQI) recorded in the "very poor" category at 383 at 9 am which settled at 380 at 4 pm. The AQI scale categorises levels from 0 to 500, with Anand Vihar breaching the "severe". At the Anand Vihar area, PM2.5 lev-

on 'X'.

els remained in the "severe" category standing at 500, and PM10 reached 500, and CO plummeted to 118, classified as 'moderate," according to the Central Pollution Control Board. AQI stood at 799 in Shahdara, 641 in Wazirpur, 621 in Noida,558 in Satyawati College, 366 in Major Dhyan

Singh Stadium at 2 pm. Besides Delhi-NCR, the entire North India has been grappling with a cold wave as temperatures continue to plummet in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Delhi-NCR

Continued on Page 2

Thrissur Pooram in peril as Kerala hikes venue rent

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The tug of war between the CPI(M)-led Kerala Government and Hindus in the State has cast a shadow on the future of the more than two centuries old Thrissur Pooram, scheduled for April 2024. Thrissur Pooram, known across the world as the Festival of Festivals and featuring nearly one hundred caparisoned elephants and more than 500 percussionists, facing unprecedented uncertainty.

A decision by the Kerala Government to hike the rentals of the venue from ₹42 lakh to ₹2.2 crore has upset the organisers, who told the authorities that they would be forced to cut short the festivities to mere ritual and do away with the splendour and pomp of

Nandakishor, humourist and the



behalf of Pooram aficionados and believers.

'The stance of the Government to hike the rental is not at all justifiable or convincing. Pooram is a cultural event and has become famous for its aesthetic value. Though the organisers of Pooram hinted at restricting the festival to a ritual, the response by the Government that it would organise unofficial cultural ambassador of the Pooram is being seen as an

attempt to wrest control of the two famous temples, Vadakkumnathan and Paramekkavu," Nandakishor told The Pioneer.

He said that Pooram is a sociocultural event and should not be treated as a money-spinner. "All temples that come under the Cochin Devaswam Board, which is under CPI(M) control, are financed by the Thiruvampady and Parameikkavu Devaswams," said Nandakishor.

Millions make it to Thrissur to watch the Pooram show when elephants line up for a colourful display of umbrellas and fireworks. "Many movies in Malavalam have Pooram as a theme, and it is impossible to imagine what Thrissur would be without this centuries-old festival," said Raju Raphel, a documentary filmmaker based in Thrissur. He said organisers were hoping against hope to stage the event to rekindle the spirit of the local

residents. The controversy took a new turn on Wednesday as leading astrologers assembled at Kozhikode, issuing a statement asking the Kerala Government and the organisers of the event to work out a solution. "If there is any interruption in organising the Pooram, it would adversely affect the divinity associated with Thrissur and surrounding areas. Thrissur, besides being the cultural capital of Kerala, is a major commercial and trading hub in South India," said Kakkassery Raveendran Panickar, an astrologercum-astronomer who is the secretary of Panickar Service Society, a thinktank on astrology and astronomy. Pooram, which is led by Devaswams (the boards that control the Vadakkumnathan and Paramekkavu temples), features nearly 20 temples in and around Thrissur city.

Ad hoc panel formed to run wrestling federation former international shuttler

PTI NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Olympic Wednesday formed a threemember ad hoc committee to run the day-to-day affairs of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) after the Sports Ministry suspended the wrestling national body for not following the provisions of its own constitution while taking decisions.

Wushu Association of India president Bhupinder Singh Bajwa will be the chairman of the panel with hockey Continued on Page 2 | Olympian MM Somaya and

Manjusha Kanwar being the other two members.

The Sports Ministry Sunday suspended the WFI, three days after it elected new office bearers with Brij Bhushan Singh loyalist Sanjay Singh as president, and also asked IOA to constitute an adhoc panel to manage the affairs of the sports body. The IOA said in a release that the newly-elected president and officials of WFI have made arbitrary decisions in violation of their own constitutional provisions and also flouted principles of good governance.

"The IOA has recently become aware that the recently appointed president and officials of WFI have made arbitrary decisions in violation of their own constitutional provisions and against the principles of good governance espoused by IOC and further without following due process overturned the rulings of the IOA- appointed Ad hoc Committee," IOA president PT Usha said. This not only highlights a

governance gap within the federation but also signifies a noticeable departure from established norms."

Shah reinvoking CAA ahead of polls: TMC

¬he Trinamool Congress has hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's alleged "attempt" to re-invoke Citizenship Amendment Act ahead of the general elections. "For the past 3-4 years they were silent on the Act but suddenly when the elections are arriving the BJP is trying to dig up the CAA from the grave in an apparent bid to garner votes," Bengal Trinamool Congress vice president Jayprakash Majumdar said adding "despite Amit Shah's attempt to misuse an irrelevant and useless law in order to gain some votes the BJP will badly lose the coming elections."

His party colleague and spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said "no matter how many times the BJP central leaders visit Bengal to disturb the State communally they will not be able to cross single digit mark in the coming elections." Ghosh said, "Shah and his colleagues would come and go but the end result will be a steady drop in the number of seats that they got last time."

With a large number of Left voters swinging their way the BIP had witnessed a massive jump in their seat tally in 2019 general elections when they won 18 out of 42 seats whereas the TMC got 22 and the Congress supported by the Left won 2. The Marxists for the first time since Independence drew a blank.

Speaking on the issue senior TMC leader and minister Firhad Hakim too reminded 2021 Assembly elections saying, "the entire top BJP leadership had assembled in Kolkata ... they came and went like

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sion was created that they would get more than 200 seats

Mamata to

event?

skip Ayodhya

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is unlike-

ly to attend the January 22

inauguration ceremony of the

Though none in the State

Government, not even the

senior ministers would talk

about it there are whispers

that the Chief Minister had

decided to skip the mega cer-

emony in an apparent bid to

avoid being seen on the same

platform with the BJP which

the INDIA alliance --- of which

Banerjee too is a member ---

has been attacking for using

religion as a tool to win elec-

Notwithstanding Banerjee's

skipping the programme, the

Bengal ruling party Trinamool

Congress (TMC), may send a

representative on its behalf to

Banerjee wants to keep mum

on the issue for the present as

she herself has been con-

structing a Jagannath Temple at

Digha --- modeled after the

world famous ancient Puri

Jagannath Temple. The Digha

Temple being constructed by

State funds is likely to be a

major tourist attraction and a

vote catcher considering the

fact that a majority of the peo-

ple in East Midnapore district

bordering Odisha are the fol-

lowers of Lord Jagannath.

the ceremony, sources said. There is a second view also.

tions.

Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

but our leader Mamata Banerjee alone took on their entire team of heavyweights and BJP ended up getting only 78 seats ... hence no amount of CAA, social media campaign or whatever tricks Amit Shah ii and JP Nadda ji are giving to their foot soldiers will not

The Home Minister had in a closed-door organizational meeting on Tuesday told the BJP workers that CAA was a reality and that no one would be able to stop it from being implemented.

Accusing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of misleading the people on CAA Shah said, "Didi is misleading the people but let me tell you that CAA is a law passed by the Parliament and is a reality ... now no one can stop it from being implemented ... where is the problem if our brothers --- who have been pushed out of neighbouring countries ... who have fled those countries because they were being forced to change their religion --- are given citizenship ... they will definitely get citizenship and no one can stop it.

Shah also asked the BJP workers to tell the people about the corrupt regime Banerjee was running. "There is a scam or two in every department ... 12 years ago when the TMC came to power removing the Left Front people were relieved that the communists had gone out of power ... but today Mamata Banerjee is running such a government that people have started to tell that even the Left were far better than them," he said.

Government seeks public feedback on NAP-SE draft

 $T^{\text{he Government has sought}}_{\text{public comments on the}}$ much-awaited draft document 'National Action Plan for Snakebite envenoming in India' (NAP-SE) prepared with an aim to halve the mortality and disability associated with the snakebite envenoming by 2030 in India, thus echoing the WHO target.

As per the government data, every year, approximately 300,000 snakebite cases are reported, resulting in 2000 deaths annually. However, there is a huge gap between snakebite deaths reported from direct surveys and official data. As per research studies conducted in India, only 7.23% snakebite deaths were officially reported. In such a grim scenario, the draft document serves as a blueprint for the states tackling this major public health burden that includes paralysis, haemorrhage, tissue damage and irreversible kidney failures; pregnant women are highly sensitive as haemorrhage due to venomous snakebite can cause miscarriage.

The stakeholders have been asked to submit their comment/objection by January 2, 2024, as per officials in the Union Health Ministry. The document has been prepared by the National Centre for Disease Control under the Ministry.

According to the officials, the NAP-SE is a guidance document for the states/stakeholders to develop their own action plan, specific to their needs and aims at systematic reduction of snakebite risk through sustained availability of anti-snake venom, capacity building,

ties and public education aiming to cut down the deaths and cases to halves till 2030. A major public health problem

in India's rural and peri-urban areas, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat are among the high burden states with most vulnerable population being agricultural workers, herders, fishermen, children aged 10-14 years and people living in poorly constructed houses etc. Children may suffer more severe effects, and can experience the effects more quickly than adults due to their smaller body mass. As per the document, most deaths and serious consequences of snakebites are entirely preventable by making safe and effective antivenoms more widely available and

accessible. India has more than 310 species of snakes, mostly nonpoisonous. However, there are 66 species that are labelled as venomous or mildly venomous and majority of the snakebites result from four species, collectively named as "Big 4" species namely Russell's Viper, Spectacled cobra, common krait, and saw-scaled viper.

The "Big 4" are not uniformly distributed throughout the country and their distribution pattern is dependent on multiple factors like habitat, rainfall, altitude, availability of prey

In particular, there are certain species that are distinct to specific geographical areas and their venom is poorly neutralized by the available polyvalent anti-snake venom (ASV).

'Genes not sole cause of early onset of dementia'



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

ontrary to the general per-Ceptions, genes are not only the sole cause for young-onset dementia, researchers have said, pointing out that there are at least 15 risk factors responsible for the progressive neurodegenerative disease.

The large-scale study, published in the journal JAMA Neurology, indicates that it may be possible to reduce the risk of youngonset dementia, which occurs when a person develops the disorder affecting their memory, thinking, and social abilities before the age of 65, by targeting health and lifestyle factors. Relatively little research has been done on young-onset dementia, though globally there are around 3.7 lakh new cases of young-onset dementia each year.

The researchers at the University of Exeter in the UK and Maastricht University, Netherlands, followed over 3.5 lakh participants younger than 65 from the UK Biobank study, a large-scale biomedical database containing de-identified genetic, lifestyle, and health information and biological samples from half a million participants.

The team evaluated a broad array of risk factors ranging from genetic predispositions to lifestyle and environmental influences.

that no CCTV camera was

Army will wipe out...

He chaired a high-level security review meeting at Raj Bhawan in Jammu, accompanied by Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi. The Defence Minister received a detailed brief on the

prevailing security situation, the counter-infiltration grid, and operational preparedness. Rajnath Singh discussed the operating challenges with the Commanders on the ground, emphasising the need for professional conduct and due diligence during operations. Later, Rajnath Singh met with the families of the deceased

persons, residents of the village Topa Peer of Bufliaz in Poonch district. He assured expeditious investigation into the incident, culminating in the deliverance of justice.

Rajnath Singh expressed satisfaction with the high level of synergy between the security forces, civil administration, J&K Police, Central Armed Police Forces, and other security agencies. This collaboration projects a clear message of resoluteness toward improving the security environment conducive to fostering a new era of development in the Union Territory (UT).

Separatist Muslim.

The Union Home Ministry, in a notification, stated that the objectives of the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) are to attain freedom for Jammu and Kashmir from India, merge it with Pakistan, and establish Islamic rule.

The organisation's members have been involved in secessionist activities, raising funds through various sources, including Pakistan and its proxy organisations, to support terrorist activities and sustain stone-pelting on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

The home ministry emphasised that the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) and its members show disrespect towards the constitutional authority and setup of the country. Their unlawful activities

undermine the integrity, sovereignty, security, and communal harmony of the UK. Additionally, there have been indications of the Muslim (Masarat Alam faction) having linkages with banned terrorist organisations.

The outfit and its members

have been supporting terrorist activities with the intent to create terror in the country, thereby endangering its security and public order. Their anti-national activities

demonstrate disregard and disrespect for the constitutional authority and sovereignty of the UK, the ministry said. The Central government believes that immediate action

is necessary against the Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) to curb its unlawful activities, which pose a threat to the territorial integrity, security, and sovereignty of the country. The outfit is likely to continue

advocating the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from India, promoting false narratives, and inciting anti-national sentiments among the people of the region, which could disrupt public safety.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Azadi 6

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites ope e-tender for the under noted work: PART-B: Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning

of 25 KV AC OHE modification work at Mansurpur & Jarodanara stations on MTC-SRE section (phase-1 inconnection with Improvement/Augmentation of Tractio

2 Approx. Cost of Work Rs. 72,97,427.73/-3 Earnest Money Deposit Rs. 1,46,000/-F-Tender Bid Online Submission 09.01.2024 (00.00 Hrs.) to 5 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date

Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen

E-Tender No.: 36A-TRD-NDLS-2023-24 Date : 27.12.2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Thrissur Pooram in peril as Kerala hikes...

"More than a Hindu festival, Pooram is an inter-religious congregation where all three major religions take part with enthusiasm. The preparations for the Pooram itself are a round-the-year process and involve the making of colorful umbrellas and other paraphernalia to be displayed atop the elephants standing in parade at the venue," said Sudheer Damodaran, a cultural activist in the district.

The Pooram is already enmeshed in controversy regarding the use of elephants for the parade. Animal rights activists have challenged the organisers' decision to use the pachyderms as an act of cruelty to the elephants. The elephants are made to stand for more than 15 hours without any break during the Pooram

Israel calls embassy blast...

From Page 1

The security agencies have collected multiple CCTV footage from the lanes of Abdul Kalam Road and Prithviraj Road.The Delhi Police will investigate "end-to-end encrypted calls" of active mobile numbers near the Israel Embassy as part of its probe into a low-intensity blast that occurred there on Tuesday night. Officials investigating orchestrated plan, knowing connection with the alleged the spot said since no remnants site, officials said.

installed on Prithviraj Road, police sources said on Wednesday. The police have intensified their probe after the blast and have identified two suspects who were caught on camera walking on the road close to the spot shortly before the explosion.

"It is hard to trace end-to-end encrypted calls, but with special investigative techniques and a dump of nearby numbers, we can trace who was near and around the area where a low-intensity blast occurred," said a senior police official who requested anonymity. The Delhi police also said that

they are yet to register a first

or traces of the blast were found by forensic experts. Delhi police said that they have zeroed in on three to four people who were seen moving suspiciously after an explosion was reported outside the Israel Embassy. Areas around the Israel embassy and **Iewish**

blast as no explosive substance

establishments in Delhi have been put under the watch of the security personnel. Paramilitary personnel have been deployed at the embassy for further protection. The local police have been asked to increase the vigil in the national capital, an official said Wednesday.

of the explosive were found at the spot, the possibility of a "chemical explosion" cannot be ruled out. According to police officials, no CCTV cameras were installed behind the Israel Embassy where the blast took place. Around 5.30 pm, a lowintensity blast was heard close to the Israeli embassy in the high-security Lutyens' zone, triggering concern among the Indian security and intelligence agencies. Central agencies, including the anti-terror National Investigation Agency (NIA), are probing the alleged blast.

No one was injured in the blast but an "abusive" addressed to the Israeli



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR, SAHID NAGAR, ODISHA Phone / FAX :- 0674-2540578 (O) / e-Mail: eephiiibbsr@gmail.com

23.01.2024 (15.00 hrs.)

RRSK (29366203)

No. 13832

/Dt. 22.12.23

1st Corrigendum to Bid ID No. 44 of 2023-24 Dt.20.12.2023

The notice inviting tender of this office bid ID No.44 of 2023-24 dated. 20.12.2023 is here by

ļ	SI No.	As per Tender ID	Modified as follows		
	1.	The Estimated Cost Rs. 197.07 Lakh (Apprx) in column No.3 of tender call notice.	The Estimated Cost Rs. 69.41 Lakh (Apprx) in column No.3 of tender call notice.		
	2	The E.M.D Rs. 1.98 Lakh (Online remittance) in column No.4 of tender call notice.	The E.M.D 1% (One percent) (Online remittance) of estimated cost in column No.4 of tender call notice.		

All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged. OIPR-13205/11/0027/2324

Additional Chief Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar PUBLIC NOTICE

ice It is to inform to the public at large of Mr.

ub Uddin & Mrs. Meherunesh who

chasing the house constructed at freel

sidential Two Storied House Bearing Old No.

ewn o. 99/14, admeasuring 30 sq. yard i.e. 25

meter, Situated at Purva Mahaveer, Meerut

list Magart (11, 12), from Mrs. Nairan Report meter, Situated at Purva Mahaveer, Meerut C pist, Meerut (U.P)., from Mrs. Najma Begum V Manssob Hasan who had owner throu gistered Sale Deed dated 18.01.2018 and s gistered Sale Deed dated 18.01.2018 and s s lost the original sale deed i.e. registered Si-eed dated 20.06.1998 executed by Mrs. Moh it Wo Mr. Gangaram & Mr. Gangaram S/o I hiluram in Favor of Mrs. Rukhsana W/o Mr. Ab uf Duly registered as per Book No 01, vol No 4 go No 277/290 Document No 2377 SR-III-Mee ige No 2777/290 Document No 2377 SR-III-Mee (D.6.1998) in respect of one storied house bear luse no. 150 area 30 sq. Yds., same to be financ mortgaged by Yastu Housing Finance Corporati d. If any Person having any type of claim/rig ei/interest over the said property, may inform titing, at the address mentioned below, about ly jections, within 07 days from today, failing which all be presumed that the said property is free fro type of Encumbrances, lien, dispulse stc. kin form the undersigned in writing on the below. all be present type of Encumbrances, men, type of Encumbrances, men, type of the undersigned in writing on the undersigned and the present. Whis Prason Laza, Advor. SG Associates (Law Foreigner Graziabed 20'

FF 18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Vaibhay Khand, Indi GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Jagdish La
Suri claims to be owner and ir
possession of Entire Second Floor o
Property bearing No. 213, Area measuring
125 Sq. Meters, in Block-A3, situated a
Paschim Vihar Residential Scheme, area o
Village Jawala & Garhi Piran, New Delh
(hereinafter called the said property) by
virtue of Will Dated 12.02.1996 Bearing Doc
No. 11329, said Ram Pyari Suri expired or
05.02.2005 and the surviving member
certificate is also issued from Revenue
Department Govt of NCT of Delhi Dated
01.06.2023 which states that Jagdish La
Suri (Son) is the only legal heir of Late Ram
Pyari Suri, Said Ram Pyari Suri as the owner
of said property by virtue of Sale Deed Dated
12.02.1996 reg vide Doc No. 2583
and said Jagdish Lal Suri being the only legal
heir of Late Ram Pyari Suri has
agreed to sell the said Property to Parul
Gupta & Said Parul Gupta has agreed to
create a mortgage in favour of our clients
Axis Bank Limited, JanakPuri Branch, New
Delhi, any person's heving claim against the
said Property, or any part thereof, by way of
sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable) exchange, mortgage (equitable) exchange, mortgage (equitable) exchange, mortgage to the wise, officery, or any part thereof, by way of
sale, exchange, mortgage howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the
same in writing to us with supporting

trust, inheritance, lien or otherwist, howsoever, are hereby inimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary avidence at the addres: mentioned below within 14 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/o abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequen creation of mortgage in respect thereof

For Diwan and Company LLP Advocates and Solicitor.
House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi
110019 Mobile No. 981839999

Vishal Diwan (Advocate

Empowering lives our mission..

From Page 1 With a loan from her SHG, Rubina transitioned from a labourer to a successful businesswoman, contributing to pandemic relief efforts by making masks and sanitizer. Prime Minister applauded her confidence and pledged to make two crore women from SHGs 'lakhpati,'

in fostering self-reliance. The session continued with Arjun Singh, a tea garden worker from Tripura, who transformed his life through various government schemes like PM Awas, Ujjwala, and free toilets.

emphasising the role of SHGs

Expressing satisfaction, Modi highlighted the ease with which beneficiaries like Arjun are availing the benefits, reflecting the success of the government's initiatives.

Prime underscored the importance of the confidence displayed by women entrepreneurs and beneficiaries, emphasising that their empowerment is

like agriculture and fisheries after making a mark in fields production.

such as dairy and sugar Modi said the change in the lives of crores of beneficiaries of his government's welfare schemes in the last 10 years

During the yatra, he said one crore people have been given 'Ayushman' cards, a health insurance scheme run by the government for the poor; 1.25 crore people have undergone health check-ups, while more than 70 lakh have been inspected for tuberculosis.

bribery now to get these benefits, he said, adding "Modi is like family to you. You don't need connection."

government, 10 crore women have joined self-help groups across the country and have been given Rs 7.5 lakh crore through banks, he said, adding that it is his dream to make 2 crore women

The Prime Minister said his government is working to

that wherever this Vikas Yatra reaches, stalls and shops of products information related to it are also being given. Products made by self-help groups are also being shown there. Information is also being given through government

As per satellite imagery, a layer of dense fog has shrouded parts of northwest India and

al departures, four international arrivals, 22 domestic departures, and five domestic arrivals. Four flights were

M.P. HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NOTICE INVITING BID (5th CALL)

Tender No. 2023_MPHID_318231 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF DEVELOPER FOR "CONSTRUCTION OF 112 GOVT. QUARTERS INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT, 600 SEATED TOWN HALL, MULTILEVEL PARKING, PWD OFFICE AND 14 CLASSROOM BUILDING FOR POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE AT SATNA UNDER RE-DENSIFICATION POLICY OF GOMP"

Government of Madhya Pradesh through MP Housing & Infrastructure Development Board (MPHIDB) intends to carry out "CONSTRUCTION OF 112 GOVT. QUARTERS INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT, 600 SEATED TOWN HALL, MULTILEVEL PARKING, PWD OFFICE AND 14 CLASSROOM BUILDING AT SATNA UNDER RE-DENSIFICATION POLICY OF GOMP ("the Project/Government Facilities"). MPHIDB intends to appoint a Developer for Construction and Development of these Government Facilities.

The selected Developer will be provided "Land-Ownership Rights "on Compensatory Land Parcel (CLP) admeasuring 8771.97 Sqm (Sheet No. 58, Plot No.: 34, 43/1 at Old Polytechnic civil line, satna District SATNA). The prospective bidders have to quote for the Premium for "Land-Ownership Rights" on the CLP. The Bidder quoting Highest Premium will be selected as Developer for the Project. The selected Developer has to pay the quoted Premium partly in monetary terms and partly in kind in the form of cost of construction of the Government Facilities as per provisions of the RFP Document.

The Dy. Housing Commissioner MPHIDB Circle Rewa invites bids from reputed & experienced entities for Selection of a Developer for the Project, through transparent online bidding process. RFP documents can be downloaded and purchased from GoMP online E-tender portal https://mptenders.gov.in

RFP Document Cost	Rs. 50000/- + GST				
Online sale of RFP Document	29.12.2023				
Bid Security	Rs. 38.00 Lacs				
Estimated Cost of Government Facilities	Rs. 59.25 Crore (Excluding GST)				
Reserve Price of CLP	Rs. 76.00 Crore				
Complete hide can be submitted online unto 25	0.01 2024 up to 17.00 Hrs. through the online				

E-tender portal https://mptenders.gov.in Visit us: www.mphousing.in (Prabodh Parate)

/mphidb E-mail: dhchbrwa@mp.gov.in /mphidb M.P. Madhyam/112989/2023

Deputy Housing Commissioner Circle - Rewa (M.P.), Mob.: 7999909239

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA email- serwsbd2003@yahoo.com e- Procurement Notice for PMGSY works & Building works Construction of road works under PMGSY & Building Works (04 Nos) "B" & "A" Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of othe Varies from Rs.107.39 Lakhs to Rs.548.51 Lakhs (A

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of	Date & Time of opening of tender		
	No.	From	То	seeking tender clarification	Technical Bid	Financial Bids	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online -51/2023-24	30.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	08.01.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	06.01.2024 up to 1.00 P.M.	09.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimate separately	
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online - 52/2023-24	04.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	18.01.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	17.01.2024 up to 1.00 P.M.	19.01.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately	

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in for Building 6. The details of works can be seen from the web site https://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in for PMGS

7. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web sites. Chief Construction Engineer

integral to making the nation self-reliant. He said his government is working to make cooperatives a strong part of rural life, asserting that they are being scaled up massively in sectors

has been a story of courage, satisfaction, and dreams.

dispensations, he said if the situation during their tenure had prevailed now, then prospective beneficiaries of these schemes would have lost their hopes doing rounds of government offices. There is no nepotism and

Taking a swipe at previous

In the 10 years of his

'lakhpati.'

build lakhs of storage facilities to help farmers. He also said, "I have been told

local employees regarding how they can register on the GeM

Delhi grapples with zero... From Page 1

adjoining central India, including Punjab, Haryana-Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, north Rajasthan, and north Madhya Pradesh. According to the Delhi Airport Flight Information Display System (FIDS), owing to the dense fog, the airport is facing delays which so far has affected approximately 110 flights and some possibly facing cancellations. This includes disruptions in eight internation-

diverted at the Delhi airport. The official said three flights of SpiceJet and one flight of Air India were diverted to Jaipur between 0900 and 1200 hrs. Air India on Wednesday said passengers flying to and from the Delhi airport can reschedule or cancel their bookings without any extra charges in case their flights are likely to be affected due to fog. The offer is part of the airline's FogCare initiative that was introduced last winter. In light of the prevailing situation, Delhi Airport has issued an advisory for the non-CAT III flights stating that while landing and takeoffs continue, flights not compliant with CAT III (Category III) standards are likely to face obstacles. Passengers have been advised to contact their respective airlines for the latest flight information and to check if their

flights are CAT III compliant.

Geotagging of all properties planned

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

¬he New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) in its budget 2024-25 announced geotagging of all properties, hosting a Tulip festival and redevelopment of the sewerage system. Among his other announcements were modernising the dhobi ghats, acquiring electric bikes and scooters for field staff, providing uninterrupted water supply and giving health cards to students of NDMC schools. The NDMC budget also proposed to make available untied funds of Rs 10 crore for residents' welfare associations and market trade associations in the NDMC area for 2024-25 with an objective to provide scope for local initiatives and flexibility for local action by them.

The NDMC budget 2024-25 showed a total expenditure of Rs.4,829.36 crore against Rs. 4,568.21 crore provided in revised estimate (RE) 2023-24 and actual of Rs. 3,999.31 crore in 2022-23. "The total receipts of the Budget Estimate for 2024-25 are Rs 5,069.63 crore against Rs 4,888.93 crore provided in the Revised Estimate for 2023-24. The actual receipts in 2022-23 was Rs 4,302.79 crore. This is the first time that the budget of the NDMC has gone over Rs 5,000 crore," NDMC chairman Amit Yadav said

while presenting the budget for the year 2024-25. The total actual receipts in 2022-23 were Rs 4,302.79 crore. The budget estimate (BE) 2024-25 for the revenue receipts are Rs.4,444.36 crore against Rs. 4,293.51. crore provided in Revised Estimate 2023-24 and actual of Rs.3,894.67 crore in 2022-23. The RE for conital receipts are Rs.625.27 BE for capital receipts are Rs.625.27 BE for capital receipts are Rs.625.27 crore against Rs. 595.42 crore provided in RE 2023-24 and actual of Rs.408.12 crore in 2022-23. The capital expenditure is projected at Rs. 434.07 crore in BE this year against Rs.309.67 crore in revised estimate in 2023-24 and actual of Rs. 143.04 crore in 2023-23 "he said Rs. 143.04 crore in 2022-23," he said. The BE for revenue expenditure are Rs. 4,395.30 crore against Rs. 4,258.55 crore provided in RE 2023-24 and actual of Rs. 3,856.27 crore in 2022-23. NDMC is expecting to collect Property Tax of Rs.1,150 crore in Revised Estimates 2023-24 and Rs.1,150 crore in 2024-25. The actual receipts in 2024-25. 2024-25. The actual receipts in 2022-23 for License Fee from Municipal Properties stood at Rs. 628.69 crore. The Projections for RE 2023-24 are at Rs. 825.11 crore and BE 2024-25 are at Rs. 825.11 crore. The NDMC has also approved the proposal to increase 1% of transfer duty for both male and female from 1.8.2023 which will ensure additional revenue of Rs.15 crore approxi-



mately each year from 2023-24 onward

Yadav said the total revenue receipts from Electricity Distribution Strategic Business Unit (EDSBU) have been projected in 2023-24 at Rs.1,455.18 crore as against actual Rs.1577.51 crore in the year 2022-23. The projections for BE 2024-25 are at Rs. 1,565.05 crore.

Talking about the G-20 Summit, Yadav said, "This year was a milestone for the NDMC as we had to prepare New Delhi for hosting the G-20 summit, under the leadership of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The NDMC devoted itself to ensuring the success of this significant event and took numerous initiatives to prepare the city to welcome our guests from across the world. Through the concerted efforts of team NDMC we not only met but exceeded the expecta-

On issue of pollution, the NDMC chairman said the Council has implemented a range of proactive measures to combat environmental pollution through promoting greenery and expanding the green cover to mitigate the spread of dust, deployed Smog Guns, Mechanical Road Sweepers, to switch to only electric vehicles in a phased manner and have augmented e-charging points to support use of electric vehicles in NDMC area.

NDMC has procured two lakh tulip bulbs for the winter to enhance the city's aesthetics and to add colour to its landscape, he said, adding that the civic body is planning to make the Tulip Festival an annual event.

Noting that the city infrastructure needs to be upgraded with passage of time, Yadav said the NDMC has asked the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to sanction projects worth Rs 556 crore under the Urban Development Fund (UDF) scheme for rehabilitation of the NDMC sewerage system.
"This will enable NDMC to aug-

ment the sewerage system in a phased manner within a span of five years," he said. The NDMC is also working on an amendment to the NDMC Act, 1994 to align with current global best practices, he said. "As part of our tax reform process we will implement geotagging of all properties starting from the next financial year i.E. 2024-25. Geotagging will mandate uploading the photos of taxpayers' properties through mobile app or the NDMC website for easy identification and tracking" he said tracking," he said.

Yadav also announced that the Charak Palika Hospital will soon get an ICU facility and blood storage unit. "The work regarding procurement of equipment for ICU is in advanced stages and likely to be completed by March, 2024," he said.

Yadav said NDMC has created an 'Innovation Fund', and a committee will be set up to lay down the modalities for projects. "The first of such projects: bioremediation-based innovative hybrid technology is being used to clean the partial open portion of Kushak nallah from 11 Murthi SP Marg to Kemal Ataturk Marg about 2 km in length," he said. "It is proposed that this fund will be used for a long-term solution that ensures that untreated water does not flow into Kushak Nala or

Yamuna," he added. Yadav also announced that a comprehensive project for upgrada-tion of 'dhobi ghats' will be launched. In the Budget it is proposed to make available Untied Funds of Rs. 10 crore for the Resident Welfare Association (RWAs) and Market Trade Associations (MTAs) of the NDMC area for the year 2024-25 with an objective to provide scope for local initiatives and flexibility for local action by the RWAs/ MTAs.

"NDMC is also working on amendment to the NDMC Act, 1994 to align with current global best practices, to factor our learning experiences over the last three decades, ensuring ease of doing business, reducing regulatory burden and carrying out reforms including tax reforms," he said.

2,000 people views on Sunehri Masjid received

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he\ New\ Delhi\ Municipal\ Council\ has}$ received more than 2,000 comments and suggestions over the proposed demolition of the Sunehri Masjid. The NDMC had sought public feedback and suggestions on the exercise by January 1.

"We have received over 2,000 suggestions over email. The suggestions have been received from Muslim organisations and minority welfare bodies," sources from the NDMC said. NDMC chairman Amit Yadav was asked about the proposed demolition of the mosque at the press conference for announcing the council's budget.

"We have sought public feedback on the Sunehri Masjid. We had got a request from the Delhi Traffic Police on traffic snarls being reported around the area. We had started the process and sought comments of various stakeholders. We had also approached the religious committee but the Delhi Waqf Board went to the court over the matter," he said. The court had disposed off the mat-

"We have sought public feedback on the matter and are following the due process. The public feedback will be examined and the heritage committee will also look into it," he

Encrypted calls of active mobile numbers near Embassy under scanner

The area is behind the Israeli embassy on Dr APJ Abdul

Kalam Road, running parallel to

Prithviraj Road.The sources

said there was no CCTV cam-

era at the location as compared

to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road

where more than a dozen cam-

eras are installed outside and

training institute have CCTVs

inside their gates," a source

said, adding that cameras are

also installed at the entry gates

The footage obtained from

these cameras show some peo-

ple, including two youngsters,

roaming in the area, but they

are not on the list of suspects

According to the officials, the

accused probably wanted to

send out a message, without harming anyone. A letter found

from the spot has given a grim

reminder of the January 2021

Delhi Police have also beefed up

security in the national capital

and additional security forces

were deployed near the border

areas to maintain law and order

in view of the New Year celebra-

tions and the two incidents. Till

Wednesday evening, the Delhi

Police had not registered any

case as they were trying to

ascertain the sequence of events

leading up to the incident and

the nature of the explosion. "Areas around the Israel

Embassy and Jewish establish-

ments in Delhi have been put

under the watch of the securi-

ty personnel. The local police

have been asked to increase the

vigil in the national Capital," an

blast near the embassy.

near the embassy.

of the other houses.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police will look into "end-to-end encrypted calls" of active mobile numbers near the Israel Embassy as part of its probe into a low-intensity blast that occurred there on Tuesday night.

Officials probing the case suspect it was a well-orchestrated camera was installed on Prithviraj Road, police sources said on Wednesday. Police have intensified its probe after the blast and have identified two suspects who were caught on camera walking on the road close to the spot shortly before

the explosion. "It is hard to trace end-to-end encrypted calls, but with special investigative techniques and dump of nearby numbers, we can trace who were near and around the area where a lowintensity blast occurred," said a senior police official who

Police said that there are several different social media applications that need to be checked and concerned companies will be communicated with.

requested anonymity.

A low-intensity blast occurred in the area between the boundary walls of the house on plot number 4 -- Nanda's House -and the Central Hindi Training Institute on plot number 2A on Prithviraj Road on Tuesday evening. The area has bushes plants and trees and no CCTV camera, the sources said.

On Wednesday, a team of senior police officers visited the area surrounding the Parliament to investigate if there was any connection between the recent security breach in Lok Sabha

DU college withdraws must attendance for Gita course

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University's Ramanujan college administration on Wednesday said that it has withdrawn the condition for mandatory attendance kept for a certificate-cum-refresher course on Srimad Bhagavad

Gita for its staff. Jigar Inamdar, chairman of Ramanujan college said, "We had withdrawn the mandatory attendance for the course on Gita on December 22, when the inaugural session of the course was held. There's no compulsion on the staff to attend the course if they don't want to course if they don't want to. However, I publicly urged them to join the course to increase participation." The chairman added that the college had made attendance for the course mandatory to ensure footfall and participation by the staff. Earlier on Wednesday, a DU Teachers' Front, opposed the mandate saying that the teaching and non-teaching staff of the college were being coerced into registering for the certificate course on Bhagavad Gita. It alleged that the college is forcing the teaching and nonteaching staff to attend the course beyond their office hours. "Ramanujan principal SP Agarwal has abused the powers vested in him to dictate to all teachers and non-teaching staff to compulsorily register for and attend a refresher/certificate course on Srimad Bhagavad Gita," the DTF said in a statement.

"Illegally coercing teachers and non-teaching staff to remain engaged till 6.30 pm beyond official duties and the added burden of conducting the ongoing semester examinations of students is unacceptable," it added. The refresher course, being organised by the Teaching Learning Centre is being offered till January 9 by the college from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm for all teaching and non-teaching staff in online as well as offline mode. In an email to the teaching staff, the college principal said that the course is being offered in line with the Indian Knowledge System Centre proposed to be

set up at the college.

Delhi Minister seeks of Chief Secretary stature would

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a note to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj on Wednesday alleged that Chief Bhardwaj Secretary (CS) Naresh Kumar has cleverly hidden the most important facts mentioned in the U.O. Note of 24 December. "My U.O. Note dated 24.12.2023 had a very specific direction that the Chief Secretary has to constitute a Committee under the chairmanship of HOD, Health Dept (i.e. Secretary (Health)) and provide an ATR about the constitution of this Committee within six hours. I believe this work for any officer

not have taken more than an hour. That committee was required to give a preliminary report in 24 hours and final report in 7 days. It was also supposed to recommend action against the outsourcing agency if it was found guilty by this Committee. However, neither the direction has still been complied with nor the Committee has been constituted (without providing any reasons for non-compliance there-of by the Chief Secretary)," Bharadwaj said.

Accusing the Chief Secretary for leaking a note to the media, Bharadwaj has sought his dismissal from the post. This is very surprising that the Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar's office

Chief Secretary himself leaked the ATR to the Media. I am also attaching screenshot of my Wattsapp, in which a Journalist had sent me the ATR at 21:15 pm on 25.12.2023. This is enough evidence that the Chief Secretary office or the Chief Secretary himself have shared the official note with Media,"he said. Expressing his concerns, Bharadwaj stated that this raises doubts about the political neutrality of the Chief Secretary and his staff.

He further writes, "Clearly the CS is manipulating the facts to show that he submitted ATR in

exactly 6 hours just to cover the compliance of the directions in the stipulated time. After my response to the Media that no ATR has been shared by the CS, the CS came into action and he or his staff surprisingly leaked the copies of the ATR to the Media.

"The staff was under direction from the Chief Secretary to not accept any such U0 note at his residence. The staff at Chief Secretary's Residence also spoke on phone with my office staff and still refused to receive the urgent note saying that it is the clear direction of the Chief Secretary not to receive any Dak..." Bharadwaj said in his



STITUTE OF LIVER & BILLA

donation: Murmu **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

people for organ

A sserting that many patients are deprived of liver, kidney or other transplant due to nonavailability of organs, President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said there was a

Wednesday said there was a need to organise more and more awareness campaigns on a larger scale to encourage people about organ donation.

Addressing the ninth convocation of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) here, the President suggested that more attention should be paid to proportive healthcare. preventive healthcare.

It can be said that liver is the security guard of our body. are serious in our country and the huge number of diseases caused by them is a cause for worry," Murmu said.

She said the ILBS is expected to

make a significant contribution in the prevention of liver dis-The President said that due to

non-availability of sufficient number of organs, many patients are deprived of liver, kidney or any other transplant. 'Unfortunately, unethical practices related to organ donation also come to light from time to time. It is the responsibility of an aware society to solve these problems. In our country, there is a need to organise more and more awareness campaigns on a larger scale to encourage peo-

take care of themselves.

She said amidst the challenges like long duty hours, continuous emergency cases and night duties, they have to continuous ly serve the patients with full

remain physically, mentally and spiritually healthy and alert," Murmu was quoted as having said in a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

BJP protests against substandard drugs in Government hospital



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Wednesday held a protest near AAP headquarters here over supply of drugs that failed quality standard tests in Government hospitals and demanded resignations from Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal and Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj. Addressing the protesters, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that another sample failed the test on Wednesday.

"Today, another sample has arrived and that was also found to be fake. The tender for the medicines whose samples were found to be fake had ended," Sachdeva said. The protesters also raised slogans against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj. Delhi police used water canon to disperse BJP workers as they broke police barricades to run towards AAP office and arrested them. The police had made adequate security arrangements and put up

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that in political career spread in over 4 decades he has not seen a government stoop as low as to allow distribution of fake and poor quality medicines in government hospitals like the Arvind Kejriwal government. Despite supply of spurious medicines, they shamelessly defended their act and trying to put blame on the bureaucracy Kejriwal and Bharadwaj should immediately resigned from their posts and tender apology to the people of Delhi, he said

Former Union Health Minister Dr Harshvardhan said there is no such scheme in which corruption has not taken place in Kejriwal Government. BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said that Kejriwal lied and cheated the poor, women and general public of Delhi and not only this, he is playing with the lives of the poor. BJP MLA Vijendra Gupta said that Arvind Kejriwal has the biggest hand in the way fake medicines being distributed in Delhi Government hospitals.

Epilepsy drugs in Government hospitals found spurious

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The epilepsy drugs supplied to government hospitals in Delhi have been found "spurious". The revelation has come to fore after the samples of an epilepsy drug collected from a Delhi government facility were found spurious in a test conducted at a government laboratory. The test report of the Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory (RDTL) in Chandigarh revealed that Sodium valproate, antiepileptic medication that controls seizures or fits, has "not met the standard quality". The report was issued on December 22. The Vigilance Department has already directed to remove five drugs from the supplies are amlodipine, levetiracetam, pantoprazole, cephalexin and dexamethasone. These drugs are found not to standard quality during laboratory tests.

The test report stated that the sample was "not of standard quality as defined in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940..." as it did not conform to the "claim as per IP 2022 in respect to the Dissolution of Sodium Valproate?

City reports first COVID **subvariant** JN.1 case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi has reported its first case of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1, officials said on Wednesday. Delhi has more than 35 active cases with nine fresh infections being reported on Wednesday, an official said, adding that a 28-year-old man, who had comorbidities, died, with Covid not being the primary reason.

'The man was not from Delhi and was referred to a private hospital recently. He had multiple comorbidities and the Covid finding was incidental. The sample of the man has been sent for genome sequencing and a report is awaited," he added. The official said multiple samples were sent for genome sequenc-ing, and one of them tested positive for the IN.1 variant.

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said that JN.1 is a sub variant of Omicron and is a mild infection. This is the one spreading in south India. There is no need to panic. It causes mild sickness

"Out of the 3 samples sent for genome sequencing, one is JN.1 & two are Omicron," Bhardwaj said. Earlier in the day, Delhi Health Department revealed that nine fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected in the city in last 24 hours. The city now has 35 active cases.

ple about organ donation," Murmu said. The President advised doctors to

alertness and enthusiasm. 'Therefore, it is important that despite all the challenges, they all

Former JNU staffer held for duping professors of ₹11 crore

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

63-year-old former JNU Aemployee was arrested for allegedly duping professors of the varsity and IIT Delhi of more than Rs 11 crore on the pretext of providing affordable housing project under the guise of DDA's purported landpooling policy, police said on Wednesday. The accused has been identified as P D Gaikwad, a resident of Gurugram in Haryana, they said. An FIR was registered on the complaints of these professors.

It was alleged that in 2015, Gaikwad, who was working as a scientific officer at the university's School of Environmental Sciences, formed the Noble Socio-Scientific Welfare Organisation (NSSWO) claiming to provide affordable housing, police

He allegedly made a presentation and lured them to become members of the organisation. In his capacity as the president of the organisation, Gaikwad provided them details of a proposed housing project under DDA's purported land-pooling policy for which he said the NSSWO was in the process of procuring land in the proposed L-Zone, a senior police officer said.

The complainants became members of the NSSWO and booked units in the proposed project. The complainants paid membership fees and payments for their flats, police said. On November 1, 2015, the accused took them to show a piece of land in the L-Zone, Najafgarh. However, he did not show any document supporting the purchase of the land. Over the years, they came to realise that he was allegedly cheating them, the officer said. In 2019, Gaikwad allegedly told the

Officers Housing and Social Welfare

complainants that he was going to launch a different society, Siddhartha police said.

Society, through the Delhi government and as members of the NSSWO, complainants could change their membership to the new society by visiting his office in JNU,

Since 2019, the complainants were

money. He has collected more than Rs 11 crore from them and misappropriated the same, police said. During investigation, complainants provided the materials/brochures and receipts issued by Gaikwad containing pictures of a housing project and depicting the said land-pooling policy, Deputy Commissioner of Police (EOW) Surendra Choudhary said.

writing to Gaikwad to return their

Gaikwad had allegedly formed a society for cheating and became its president. E-mails sent by Gaikwad to the members on regular basis also contained the elements of induce-

ment depicting the land-pooling policy of the DDA, Choudhary said. However, during investigation, the DDA informed that it has not issued any license or granted any approval to any housing project under landpooling policy in Dwarka or any other land-pooling zone nor authorised any developer/builder/society/ company, including the NSSWO, to offer any flat in the name of DDA under land-pooling policy,

they said. RERA (Delhi) has confirmed that the alleged society has neither registered itself with it nor applied for registration. It was revealed that

Gaikwad allegedly received more than Rs 11 crore in the account of the society from its members, however, the funds were either siphoned off through cash withdrawal or transferred to other accounts, police said. The accused was arrested on December 14 from Delhi, Choudhary said. As he was a permanent and senior

official at JNU, they believed his words and became members of the society. Thereafter, he started collecting money from them in the name of purchasing the land for the project in the society's account, Choudhary said.



Covid JN.1 cases cross 100 mark; three deaths

ovid-19 sub-variant JN.1 Cases shot past the 100 mark as the tally touched 109 on Wednesday in the country which at the same time recorded 529 fresh COVID-19 cases and three deaths in a single day Thirty-six JN.1 variant cases were detected from Gujarat, 34 from Karnataka, 14 from Goa, nine from Maharashtra, six from Kerala, four each from Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu and two from Telangana. Most of the patients are currently in home isolation.

The country's Covid-19 active infection count stood at 4,093, the health ministry said on Wednesday with five states -Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Goa - contributing to over 90 per cent of the infections.

Three new fatalities -- two from Karnataka and one from Gujarat -- were reported in a span of 24 hours. The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5, but infections have again gone up after emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions.

The daily numbers were in lakhs at the peak of the pandemic, which began in early



2020 and has seen more than 4.5 crore people getting infected and over 5.3 lakh deaths in about four years since then across the country.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease stands at more than 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent, according to the ministry's website. The case fatality rate stands at 1.19 per cent.

The Union Health Ministry has urged the States to ensure effective compliance with operational guidelines for the revised surveillance strategy for Covid-19 shared by the union ministry of health and family welfare. They have asked to monitor and report district-wise cases of Influenzalike Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) in all health facilities regularly for early detection of rising trend of cases.

Regarding the JN.1 Sub variant, the Ministry officials said though the number of cases is rising and the JN.1 sub-variant has been detected in the country, there is no cause of immediate concern as 92 per cent of those infected are opting for home-based treatment, indicating a mild illness.

Meanwhile, amid rise in the JN.1 Covid-19 sub variant cases, Pune-based Serum Institute of India is said to be in the process of seeking a license for a vaccine targeting the new sub variant doing the rounds in various States. Sources say that it is poised to potentially distribute vaccines to check the spread of the new

BJP organisational meet in Telangana

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair BJP's organisational meetings in Telangana on Thursday as he leads the party's push in a slew of states, including West Bengal and Odisha, to emerge as a dominant player there in the next Lok Sabha elections.

BJP leaders said Shah will attend a meeting of the party' core group, which includes senior leaders from the state, in Hyderabad and later interact with 'mandal' presidents of the party from across Telangana. He will also pay obeisance at the Bhagyalakshmi temple.

The senior BJP leader, a key strategist of the party, was in West Bengal on Tuesday along with BJP president J P Nadda as they held organisational meetings and set a target of winning 35 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the eastern state ruled by the Trinamool Congress. The BJP had won 18 seats in 2019.

It had won four of the 17 seats in Telangana in the 2019 polls but its hopes to emerge as a strong force received a setback in the recent assembly polls as the Congress wrested power



from the Bharat Rashtra

The BJP is hopeful that national narratives coupled with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal will help it emerge stronger in the state in the Lok Sabha elections.

Shah, sources said, is likely to travel to Odisha too in the coming days where the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has long been the strongest force.

The BJP had, however, succeeded in denting the BJD in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as it won eight of the state's 21 seats. The BJD had won 12. Assembly elections are held simultaneously with Lok Sabha polls in the state.

All the three states were identified by Shah during 2014-19, when he was the BJP president, as regions for growth for the

Amit Shah to chair | Anurag Thakur takes swipe at Congress on Bharat Nyay Yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday took a swipe at the Congress' decision to take out 'Bharat Nyay Yatra, accusing the party of failing to bring justice to the 1984-Sikh riots victims for several years and standing with the "tukde-tukde" gang. The Congress earlier in the day announced it will hold 'Bharat Nyay Yatra' which will be led by Rahul Gandhi from Manipur to Mumbai, beginning January 14. "How can those who could not provide justice to the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, which took place during their regime, for several years, do justice to anyone," Thakur, a senior BJP leader, told reporters when asked for comment on the Congress' yatra.

'How will those who induct members of the tukde-tukde gang and create division on the lines of caste and region will provide justice," the minister said. "It was the Modi government which set up an SIT probe to provide justice to 1984 anti-Sikh riots victims," he added.

The term 'tukde-tukde' gang came into being after the 2016 Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) turmoil, and is being used by the BJP since to



accuse certain elements as ʻanti-national.'

Thakur said that the people of the country have recognised "their real face, who call Bhagwan Ram imaginary, whose alliance partners show Sanatan Dharma in poor light and insult Hindus.'

"Not only this, their leaders are making petty statements one after another," the minister charged, adding "This is their politics". Whereas, Thakur said, the Narendra Modi government's entire effort is to ensure welfare of the poor people and development of the country.

"The Modi government has set a new benchmark for good governance. It has lifted 13.5 crore poor people out of the poverty line," he said.

"And we are making efforts to ensure that the remaining poor people and those who

are needy also get facilities and assistance in the next five years when the Modi government returns to power (in 2024)," he added.

Without naming the Congress and its leaders, he said they would remain with the 'tukde-tukde' gang and would not do anything for the welfare of the poor.

When asked about opposition parties raising questions on the credibility of electronic voting machines (EVMs), Thakur asked if the EVMs were different in Telangana, where the Congress emerged victorious in the state assembly polls. "Those who keep claiming

credit for bringing computers (in India) are opposing technology," the minister said, adding, the "people of the country are also laughing at

Congress to hold Bharat Nyay Yatra from Manipur to Mumbai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

∼ongress on Wednesday Cannounced it will hold 'Bharat Nyay Yatra' led by Rahul Gandhi from Manipur to Mumbai, passing through 14 states and 85 districts from east to west of India in 67 days, beginning January 14, an exercise seen as party's attempt to rally support ahead of the crucial 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Nyay Yatra, which will cover around 6,200 km - mostly on buses with stretches of walking - and conclude on March 20, comes nearly a year after former Congress president Rahul Gandhi completed Bharat Iodo Yatra on foot from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, traversing over 4,000 km in 136

hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor (Loan Account Number) & Address

Vasudha Commercial Pvt

& F 701 A 2nd Floor, Lado Sarai Mehrauli New

Rajesh Dattatray Machha (LBTNE00005677753)

Flat No. B 703 Agarwal Lifestyle, C3 Chs Ltd, Global City, Virar West,

(LBMUM00002841772)

Delhi, Delhi - 110030.

Thane-401303

.td/ Arvind Saraf/

While Rahul Gandhi raised the issues of "economic disparities, polarisation and dictatorship" during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Nyay Yatra will focus on social, economic and political justice for the people of the country, Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said at the AICC press confer-

The yatra will be flagged off by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge from Imphal on January 14 and will pass through Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and

Maharashtra. The march is being seen as

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was

issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcemen of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are

Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced

It/ Ites/ Premises/ Unit No. 1405, On The 14th

Floor, Building Named As Marathon Icon, Situated At Marathon Next Gen, Off Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel West Cadastral Survey No. 2/142 (lower Parel Division), Mumbai Island

Flat No. B/703, 7th Floor, B Wing, Building Type Ag 1, Known As Agarwal Lifestyle, On Avenue C-3, Township Known As Global City, Land Bearing Survey No. 5, 5B, 5D, 5F & 5g, Virar West, Situate Lying Being At Village Dongare (Dongare Pada), Also Known As Village Narangi, Dist- Thane- 401303

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as

applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financia Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Plot No-B3, Wifi IT Park, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane(West)-400604.

City Mumbai 400013

wake of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, which are likely to be held in April-May. The announcement of the polls may coincide with the last leg of the Yatra.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra, which started on September 7, 2022, was credited by the Congress for its electoral gains in assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana, claiming it had enthused its ranks and file and revitalised the party's connect with the masses.

"After the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress will take out a Bharat Nyay Yatra under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi ji," Ramesh said.

He also said the Congress will hold a mega rally in Nagpur on

Date of Notice Sent/ Outsta-

06, 2023

Rs. 1,14,36,845.00/

November 22,2023

23,27,417/-

Authorized Office **ICICI Bank Limited**

NPA Date

2023

03-08 2023

December 28 on the occasion of the party's foundation day. The rally, named 'Hain Tayyar Hum" (we are ready), will sound the bugle for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections for the

Congress general secretary

(Organisation) K C Venugopal said interactions will be held with women, youths and marginalised communities during the Nyay Yatra. It will cover more distance than the Bharat Jodo Yatra in lesser time as majority of the Nyay Yatra will be by bus along with short stretches of walking.

The Yatra was announced following a unanimous resolution of the Congress Working Committee on December 21 that Gandhi should undertake the second phase of the

yatra from the east to the west

Asked about the rationale behind choosing Manipur as the starting point of the Yatra, Venugopal said it is an important part of the country and also the party wanted to begin the process of "healing the wounds" of the people of the northeastern state.

Manipur witnessed one of the worst ethnic conflicts between the Kuki and Meitei communities, resulting in more than 200 deaths and leaving nearly 60,000 people homeless since the violence broke out on May 3. "After spreading the message of

unity, love and harmony through Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi will seek justice for the people of the country," Ramesh Ramesh said while the Bharat Jodo Yatra was anchored in the Constitution's Preamble's pillars of "liberty, equality and fraternity", the Bharat Nyay Yatra is anchored in the Preamble's very first pillar of justice - social, economic and political. To a question whether the

Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) parties will also participate in the Yatra, Venugopal said the final details were being worked out. Ramesh pointed out that leaders of various political parties had also participated in the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra covered 75 districts and 76 Lok Sabha constituencies across 12 states and two Union territories.

Cabinet approves Migration and Mobility Agreement with Italy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday granted expost facto approval to sign and ratify the Migration and Mobility Agreement with Italy that allows Indian students temporary residence in the European nation for up to one year after studies to gather professional experience. The agreement was signed on

November 2 by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani.

It seeks to enhance people-topeople contacts, foster mobility of students, skilled workers, business people and young professionals and strengthen cooperation on issues related the two sides.

It also locks in the current Italian visa regime, including mechanisms for post study opportunities, internships, professional training assuring an advantage for India under the existing labour mobility pathways under the Flows Decree, an official statement

The agreement allows Indian students wishing to gather

academic/vocational training in Italy a temporary residence in Italy for up to 12 months. Italy has listed provisions related to professional training, extracurricular internships and curricular internships that allow Indian students/trainees to gain experience in Italian

skill/training standards. For workers, Italy has reserved a quota of 5,000, 6,000 and 7,000 non-seasonal Indian workers for 2023, 2024 and 2025 under the current Flows Decree.

Additionally, the Italian side has reserved a quota of 3,000, 4,000 and 5,000 seasonal Indian workers for 2023, 2024 and 2025 under current Flows Decree. The agreement also fur-thering mobility pathways between India and Italy through agreements on Youth Mobility and Facilitation of Recruitment of Indian qualified professionals in the healthcare and medical services sectors

Cooperation between the two parties in fight against irregular migration has also been formalised through the agree-

ICICI Bank

Date: December 28, 2023

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financia 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/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder

Sr. Name of No. Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.		Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Earnest	Time of	Date & Time of E-Auction	
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	
1.	Konnection India Dotcom Pvt Ltd- (Borrower), Konnection India Dotcom Pvt Ltd, Nitin Kamboj, Aman Sahni (Guarantor/ Mortgagor) Lan No. 002105014346/ 002160000714/ 002160000752	Unit No. 524, 5th Floor Silverton Tower Sector 50, Village Badshahpur Gurgaon- 122001 Area: 725 Sq. Fts	Rs. 1,14,63, 422/- (as on December 11,2023)	Rs. 47,50, 000/- Rs. 4,75, 000/-	January 06, 2024 From 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM	February 08, 2024 from 11:00 AM onwards	

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com) The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till February 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before February 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before February 07, 2024 before 05:00 P.M along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before February 07 2024 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Ba favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi

Please note that Marketing agencies 1.M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management

Pvt Ltd 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt. Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons

Date: December 28, 2023 Place: Gurgaon

Notice for sale of immovable assets

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Time of	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Konnection India Dotcom Pvt Ltd- (Borrower), Konnection India Dotcom Pvt Ltd, Nitin Kamboj, Aman Sahni (Guarantor/ Mortgagor) Lan No. 002105014346/ 002160000714/ 002160000752	Unit No. 524, 5th Floor Silverton Tower Sector 50, Village Badshahpur Gurgaon- 122001 Area: 725 Sq. Fts	Rs. 1,14,63, 422/- (as on December 11,2023)	Rs. 47,50, 000/- Rs. 4,75, 000/-	January 06, 2024 From 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM	February 08, 2024 from 11:00 AM onwards

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of

tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited On 8126013708/8584874809

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s Authorised Officer **ICICI Bank Limited**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, GICICI Bank Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained n-Performing Asse issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

	Sr. No.	Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outsta- nding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
	1.	Shahabuddin/ Najamuddin (LBBAR00001007500) & A-100/ A-3 Jageerti Apartments Sector 71 Near Sai Mandir Noida Uttar Pradesh Noida- 201301	House No. 386, Shabad Distt Barelliy Uttar Pradesh	16/10/2023 Rs. 52,842/-	13/03/ 2023
	2.	Shahabuddin/ Najamuddin (LBBAR00001655902) & A-100/ A-3 Jageerti Apartments Sector 71 Near Sai Mandir Noida Uttar Pradesh Noida- 201301	House No. 386, Shabad Distt Barelliy Uttar Pradesh	16/10/2023 Rs. 70,395/-	13/03/ 2023
	3.	Anil Kumar Gupta/ Pratibha Gupta (LBALD00006406533) & S/o Jeet Lal Gupta, Jahangirabad Naini, Allahabad, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh Allahabad- 211008	Property at Araji No. 107 Min, Mauza Madhopur Uparhar, Pargna Arail, Tehsil Karchana, Allahabad, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh Allahabad	04/12/2023 RS. 1,96,310/-	07/08/ 2023
	4.	Anil Kumar Gupta/ Pratibha Gupta (TBALD00006350618) & S/o Jeet Lal Gupta, Jahangirabad Naini, Allahabad, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh Allahabad- 211008	Property at Araji No. 107 Min, Mauza Madhopur Uparhar, Pargna Arail, Tehsil Karchana, Allahabad, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh Allahabad	04/12/2023 Rs. 31,69,871/-	07/08/ 2023
	5.	Mohammad Shamim/ Fatma (LBLUC00001043937) & A-236, Indra Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh Lucknow- 226001	Plot No. 6/147, Sec-6, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh- 226010	05/12/2023 RS. 3,17,655/-	06/07/ 2023
-	The	steps are being taken for substituted s	ervice of notice. The above borre	ower/s and/o	r their

guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: December 28, 2023 **Authorized Officer** Place : Delhi/ NCR **ICICI Bank Limited**

This is to inform the general public that Mr. RIshabb Garg Mr. Sachin Garg are the sole owners of Entire Second Floor without Roof rights Said Street Second Floor Second



D/o. Mr. Diwan Singh Rawat, R/o. House No.-116, H Block, Phase-1, Banicamp, Jai Vihar, Nangloi Road, Najafgarh, South West Delhi-110043 changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Hemlata Rawat for all

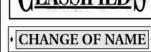


Letter No.: 5810(I)/ Nivida-01/2023-24 Dated: 26/12/2023 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)

Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 29/12/2023 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

SI. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	PD PWD Almora Construction of Jawarnaidi to Bakswar Motor Road under State Sector Constituency Jageshwar of Distt Almora (Length 10 Km.)	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 8.00 Lac	120 Days	15 Month (Including With Raining Season and Winter Season)	Class "A" & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./Any state Govt./Any Govt. Undertaking

PD(229)A



I, hereto known as Hemlata

future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client M/s. Tummy Section (a partnership firm) is in process to avail LAP facility against Entire Second and Entire Third Floor facility against Entire Second and Entire Third Floor (with roof/terrace rights) Part of Property bearing No. WZ-4, Plot No. 11, area measuring 86.114 Sq. Yds., part of Khasra No. 3512, 13, 14, 17, 18, 23 & 24, sttuated in the abadi of Vishnu Park, in the area of Village Khyala, New Delhi (availing loan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited), having acquired the said property vide Sale Deed dated 51/12/203 [Document No. 8553] executed by Divya Arora, they confirmed that they are not having the below documents pertaining to the property in question for that online FIR has already been lodged on dated 26/12/2023

Ion dated 26/12/2023

© Original Sale Deed dated 09-03-2007 executed by Mrs. Shanti Devi and Mrs. Nirmal Kumari in favour of Mrs. Krishana Devi Dlocument No. 3681)

© Original Regd. GPA, ATS and will dated 19-03-2012 executed by Mrs. Krishana Devi in favour of Mrs. Krishana Mrs. Kr

2012 executed by Mrs. Krishana Devi in favour of Mrs. Krian Garg Hilperson/s having 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 hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Guota (Advocate)

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

Shop shutters in Ayodhya decorated

With Hindu-theme artwork, uniform boards

 $F^{\rm rom\ a\ temple\ motif\ along}_{\rm with\ 'Jai\ Shri\ Ram'\ chant\ to}$ Swastika symbol, shutters of shops located along the Ram Path and other prominent streets in Ayodhya have been decorated with Hindu-theme artwork ahead of the consecration ceremony in January. The work has been done by

local authorities as part of the efforts to deck up the city for the 'pran pratishtha' that will take place on January 22, a senior official said.

The Ram Path, a name now given to a redeveloped 13-km road that connects Sahadatganj and Naya Ghat, has a large number of shops on both sides.

The stretch from Birla Dharmshala to Naya Ghat is currently dotted with vendors selling saffron flags bearing 'Jai Shri Ram, images of Lord Ram, Ram Durbar, and an artistic rendition of the upcoming Ram temple.

Framed images of Lord Ram and replicas of Ram temple are also being sold by many ven-

dors along this stretch.
As part of the redevelopment carried out in Ayodhya on the last two years or so, this road was widened on both sides and many structures were partially demolished from the front side for the purpose.

Many old buildings are also located on this stretch, and had



As part of the redevelopment, a new facade has been lent to the frontage of the structures along this route, bearing a creamish hue while shutters have been largely painted in a uniform dark maroon.

These thematic artworks have been done as part of the efforts to deck up the city for the "big day on January 22", a senior official in the PWD of the Uttar Pradesh government said.

"As part of the beautification drive, Ayodhya Development Authority, the DM office and the Ayodhya Commissioner office have all worked in tandem," he told PTI.

Shops along the Ram Path and streets leading to the temple site carry uniform boards displaying their names and also the logo of the Ayodhya Development Authority. Each shutter bears one artwork

and after the markets close at

Ram Path, a whole row of shops stand in a straight line, and these artworks painted thematically have heightened the spiritual quotient of the temple town. Near Birla Dharmshala, while

night, present a very different

Artworks on shutters of shops

located along Ram Path include

a temple silhouette with a

chant 'Jai Shri Ram', Swastika

symbol, images of a conch, a

mace, or 'Shri Ram' written in

Hindi in a calligraphic style, a

fluttering saffron flag, a Sun,

bow and arrow, and images of

'tilak' as sported by followers of

At many places along the

different sects of Hinduism.

view of the area.

a restaurant is located on the first floor of a two-storey building, three shops are located on the ground floor, bearing designs of a temple with 'Jai Shri Ram' chant, a vertical standing mace, and a Swastika

In its front is a two-storey market, and each shutter carries a Hindu-theme artwork, producing a grid that stands out visually.

Many passersby and devotees stop by to admire or take pictures of these artwork.

Ram Babu, who works at a sweet shop shows the thematic artwork done on the shop neighbouring his, and says, it has been "done by artists" through government authori-

As he shuts his shop at night, a white 'conch' emerges from the rolling shutter.

Near him, Sunil Kumar Tomar, a doctor, who runs his homeopathy dispensary, says, 'Ayodhya is getting immersed in bhakti of Ram ('Ayodhya Rammayi ho rahi hai')".

The artwork on my shutter depicts Lord Hanuman. I was very pleased to see it one fine day, when I came to open my dispensary. Though I was aware of the project, it felt like a nice surprise. I have grown up near Hanumangarhi temple, so this felt wonderful to have the Lord's image in front of my dispensary," he told PTI, as he proudly flaunted 'Shri Ram' stamped on his forehead with

From the Ram Path, many other roads lead from it towards Ramjanmabhoomi temple site, and were named

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Path and Bhakti Path, among others by government authorities as part of redevelopment.

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Path will connect Birla Dharmashala to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple via Sugreev fort.

A grand gateway with two ornamental stone-made structures on either side is getting completed, with workers toiling day and night to finish it. This is located in front of Birla Dharmshala at the starting point of the road that begins from the Ram Path and leads to the site of the temple. New facade work has been

done on buildings located on a street near Hanumangarhi temple too, bearing bright ochre hue, complemented with new ornament lamp posts.

On Tuesday, a group of artists were making these artworks on a few shutters of shops in this

One artwork depicted images of a mace, a trident, an 'Ohm' symbol, and Lord Hanuman all woven artistically into one design on a shutter.

Brand new ornamental lamp posts have been installed on the median of the Ram Path too, with their tops bearing religious symbols.

Chants of 'Sita Ram' emerging out of temples heightens the spiritual feel of this holy city with less than a month left for the consecration ceremony.

Jharkhand Muslim tailor ready with Lord Hanuman flag for Ram Mandir

Gulam Jilani (55) is all smiles as he stands beside a 40-foot-long and 42-footwide flag that he stitched. This magnificent flag is ready to be hoisted atop the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22.

Jilani is a third generation tailor who specialises in making religious 'Mahaviri' flags in Jharkhand's Hazaribag dis-

"I feel proud that a flag stitched by me will adorn the historic Ram temple, which over 100 crore people have been dreaming about. If I get a chance, I will definitely go to Ayodhya to participate in the inauguration ceremony," Jilani told PTI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the "pran pratishtha" or consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla idol in Ram temple on

The 70-acre temple complex has 392 pillars and a 14-feetwide 'percota' periphery spanning 732 metre.

Jilani said he learnt stitching from his father Abdul Shakur who died around 40 years ago at age 80.

"I used to work with my father at Bhola Vastralaya owned by one Fateh Lal Agarwal, located in front of Veer Vastralaya, where I am currently employed," he said. "The 40-foot flag bears the images of Lord Hanuman on

one side and Lord Ram and Lakshman on the shoulders of Lord Hanuman on the other," said Veer Vastralaya owner Devendra Jain.

Jain said Jilani has made thousands of Ram Navami and Mahaviri flags strengthening Hindu-Muslim unity in the

He said the flag was ordered by a prominent RSS leader Naval Kishore Khandelwal of Barabazar Hazaribag. He claimed that Khandelwal

(81) was part of the group led by veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani who participated in the demolition of . Babri Masjid on December 6,

Jain said the flag was completed in about 10 days and was ready on December 26. "Khandelwal and his group will take the flag to Ayodhya before the temple's inaugura-tion by Modi," he said.

was used to make the flag which will be fitted on a 100foot-long pole at the temple. The cost of flag is Rs 21,000,

Veer Vastralaya was estab-lished in 1977 and makes more than 2 lakh flags every year for all religions, he added. Jain said they even receive orders for flags from foreign countries during Ram Navami and Shivratri.

Khandelwal in a recorded statement said after participating in the Babri Masjid demolition, he was arrested and jailed for three months at Hazaribag Central Jail.

'My dreams of seeing a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya is coming true after almost 32 years. At present, I am unwell, but will make all efforts to participate in the inauguration of the temple on January 22," he

Karnataka activists damage signboards for not using Kannada

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (Narayana Gowda faction) on Wednesday targeted business establishments in Bengaluru and damaged their signboards and name plates which did not use Kannada. The activists took out rallies in various parts of the city, especially in the business hubs such as MG Road, Brigade Road, Lavelle Road, UB City, Chamarajapet, Chickpet, Kempe Gowda Road, Gandhi Nagar, St Marks Road, Cunningham Road, Residency Road and Sadahalli Gate near Devanahalli.

The activists claimed that the business establishments were "undermining the official language of Karnataka, which is Kannada." Many malls, shops, panies and factories, especially multinational companies, faced the ire of KRV activists, who damaged and defaced signboards and name plates which were not in Kannada. Later, the agitating members including the KRV convener T A Narayana Gowda, were taken under preventive custody by



police. Addressing reporters, Gowda said the name plates and signboards in Karnataka should be in Kannada.

Citing BBMP rules, he said, "60 per cent of the signboards and name plates should be in Kannada. We are not against your business but if you are then you have to respect our language. If you ignore Kannada or put Kannada letters in small, we will not let you operate here." The KRV leader warned the government that it will face the music in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections if it did not take their love for Kannada seriously.

The Ballari road leading to the airport and other places was chock-a-block with activists. which led to vehicles moving at a snail's pace. The police too found themselves helpless before the agitating crowd, which had gone berserk. Meanwhile, state Home media in Kalaburagi that the pro-Kannada activists have been warning against the nonusage of Kannada language in the signboards, advertisements and name plates. He said the government respects Kannada very much because all its activities take place in the state's offi-

Drew inspiration from IAS officer Tina: MP State service exam topper

Priya Pathak, who secured the top rank in the Madhya nation 2019 in her first attempt, on Wednesday said she was inspired by the success of Indian Administrative Service officer and UPSC topper Tina Pathak, 26, who has been

selected for the post of deputy collector, told PTI that given a chance, she would focus on providing quality education to students and better health facilities to women.

Seven women, including Pathak, figure among the top 10 successful candidates of the state service examination 2019 conducted by the Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC), the results of which were declared

Pathak, who hails from Nagod in Satna district and holds a masters degree in political science, was selected for the post of deputy superintendent of police (DSP) in the state service examination 2020 after securing second position in its result declared on June 9, 2023.



In the wake of legal complications over the issue of OBC reservation, the MPPSC declared results of the 2019 state service exam late Tuesday

Talking to PTI over phone, Pathak said, "During my final year of graduation in biotechnology, I decided that I wanted to join the civil service."

"I was inspired by Tina Dabi, who topped the Union Public

Service Commission's (UPSC) civil services exam in 2015," she Pathak said the fact that Dabi

in her first attempt at the age of 22 also served as an inspiration to her. "I have also been inspired by other senior IAS officers," said

Priya Pathak, whose father Krishnasharan Pathak is an assistant teacher in a government primary school. "I was determined to crack the

gave up while preparing for the exam. When the goal is big, one has to work hard and be patient until success is achieved," she Priya Pathak said given a

ensuring quality education in government institutions and providing better healthcare facilities to women. The state service exam topper

chance, she would focus on

also said she is not in a hurry to get married.

"Right now, instead of getting married, I am thinking about my upcoming appointment as deputy collector and training," she said.

Pathak also said when she appeared for the state service exam for the first time in 2019, she stayed away from social The other top nine candidates

post of deputy collector in the state service exam 2019 are Shivangi Baghel, Pooja Soni, Rahul Kumar Patel, Nidhi Mishra, Harneet Kaur Kalsi, Sourabh Mishra, Saloni Agarwal, Reetika Patidar and Ashutosh Mahadev Singh Thakur, an official of the

BRS Govt bought 22 Toyota Land Cruisers hoping KCR would become CM again: Reddy They were all in Vijayawada and

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

 $F^{ormer\ Chief\ Minister\ K}_{Chandrasekhar\ Rao's\ gov}$ ernment bought 22 Toyota Land Cruiser vehicles, "without anybody's knowledge" before the assembly polls, hoping the BRS government would come back to power and KCR could use them, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference after launching the 'Praja Palana' public outreach programme through which applications can be filled out by people seeking to benefit from the six poll guarantees, Reddy said the people of Telangana are facing a lot of problems due to the failure of the previous government.

"After I assumed charge as chief Minister, I told officials not to buy new vehicles for me but the 22 Land Cruisers and kept them in Vijayawada. Even I did not know about it until 10 days after I became chief minister," he said. "I had asked officials to repair old vehicles so that I can use them. The officials then informed me that last time we (the state government) bought 22 Land Cruiser vehicles.

Minister (KCR) was sworn in," he said. Reddy said he was surprised when officials informed him about the vehicles. "Each vehicle costs Rs 3 crore because they are bulletproof vehicles. This is how KCR has created wealth for the state," Reddy said sarcastically. The CM said a 'Prajavani' programme, a centralised public grievance redress and monitoring system, which is conducted twice a week, has received over 24,000 applications, mostly related to land and housing issues and also seeking

the then government wanted to

bring them after the new Chief

help through the Rajiv Aarogyasri health insurance scheme. Alleging that the leaders of the previous BRS government had looted Rs one lakh crore, the CM said the governamount. He further said the resignation letters of Telangana Public Commission chairman and members are pending with the Governor and once they are accepted, a new board will be created and recruitments will be completed by December 2024 as per the job calendar

Don't treat Congress lightly, work hard for BJP win: Vijayendra

sserting that there is a pro-ABJP wave in the state and country, the party's state chief B Y Vijayendra on Wednesday called on cadres to work unitedly for its victory in the Lok Sabha polls, and not take the opposition lightly at a time when the Congress is ruling

He was speaking at the first meeting of the state unit's new office bearers at the party office here. "In every election, there are different types of challenges. We must not take our opponents lightly, if we are to successfully meet those challenges," Vijayendra said, pointing out that the Congress is in government in Karnataka. He requested party members to ensure that the pro-people programmes of the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi reach the people. Vijayendra, who was appointed as the state BJP chief on November 10, had appointed new office bearers to the party on December 23

Highlighting the achievements and programmes of the Modi government, the BJP state president said that party workers should help take central government schemes to the

said that every election, right from the zilla panchayat and taluk panchayat elections and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) polls as well as the legislative council elections should be taken seriously and "we should step forward to give strength to our party workers". Noting that this responsibili-

ty has come at a very important time, he further said, "We should all be responsible and perform our duty. What is most important for us is the time at which we have got this responsibility.'

The BJP and JD(S) will fight the Lok Sabha elections together and the goal is to win all 28 seats in the state, Vijayendra said. Calling the ruling Congress "power drunk", he said, "Along with giving a suitable answer to the Congress party, we have to work towards strengthening Narendra Modi's hands... We have to send a message that Karnataka is not just a BJP stronghold in South India, it is also a secure fort." Suggesting that the challenge before BJP workers is not a big one, Vijayendra said there is a pro-

Modi atmosphere in the coun-

try and state, and he is also

very popular.

3 immigration agents held for forging bank statements of visa seekers

Three persons running an immigration consultancy firm in Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar were arrested the state Crime Investigation Department (CID) on Wednesday for allegedly forging bank account statements of visa seekers, said an official

Investigation revealed that the accused trio used to prepare fake statements of their clients' bank accounts and attach the forged documents with their visa applications to get speedy approval from the authorities, said a release by the state CID (Crime and Railways).

Embassy officials review bank statements to ensure that visa seekers meet the financial requirements for their intended stay in the host country.

A bank statement would show that the applicant has enough cash in his account to support him during the visit. Recently, the CID received inputs that people were acquiring student visas as well as work permits of countries like the US and Canada by submitting forged bank documents and fake certificates, said the release. Based on the tip-off, the CID

had raided 17 different places

across Gujarat on December

15 and found some suspicious



Gandhinagar

For a detailed investigation, the CID had seized a laptop, a mobile, a pen drive and a computer hard disk from the spot and sent it to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Gandhinagar for analysis, said the release. Experts at the FSL found

forged account statements of various banks in a mobile phone belonging to the accused, said the release. Based on the FSL report, the CID registered a case and arrested Avkash Chaudhary,

Sahil Patel and Krunal Varia

on Wednesday on the charges

of criminal conspiracy and

forgery under sections 120-b, 467 and 468 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), said the release. The arrests come a day after

a chartered Airbus A340 carrying 276 passengers landed in Mumbai, four days after it was grounded in France over suspected human trafficking. Most of those on board the plane were from Gujarat, said officials. Police will coordinate with

the passengers when they reach Gujarat from Mumbai to find out the agents and agencies involved and whether documents provided to them to migrate to the US and other countries were forged, Superintendent of Police, CID (Crime), Sanjay Kharat, had said earlier.

Expose COVID irregularities: Kharge appeals to BJP MLA Yatnal

Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday appealed to the disgrunted BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal to make the documents public related to the alleged Rs 40,000 crore scam in Covid-19 management during the previous BJP government in the

The minister said Yatnal should at least hand over the details to the Justice John Michael Cunha Commission of Inquiry to probe into the coronavirus related irregularities. Kharge, who is the son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, suspected the involvement of the Central government in the Covid

scam.

"Yatnal has said that if he is expelled from the BJP then he will release all the documents (related to Covid mismanagement). I appeal to him through the media to please make the documents public, keeping in mind the people of Karnataka and to safeguard their interest. Or at least share them with Justice John Michael Cunha Committee Commission of Inquiry," Kharge, who holds IT/BT and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj portfolios,

told reporters. He said people know that Yatnal is upright but he has to bring his honesty before the

"If you (Yatnal) are not interested in handing it over to the commission then share it with the media because it is a Rs 40.000 crore scam. There is no humanity if they (previous BJP government) made money from corpses," Kharge said reacting to BJP MLA's state-

Yatnal on Tuesday warned that he would expose the alleged irregularities of Rs 40,000 crore that happened during the BJP government in Karnataka led by B S Yediyurappa at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic if he was expelled from the party.

The MLA said, "They (the BJP government in Karnataka) have done everything (huge corruption during Covid). Let them serve me a notice and try to expel me from the party, I will expose them."

Stating that these allegations were not by the Congress but a BJP MLA and a former union minister, Kharge asked the BJP state president B Y Vijayendra and opposition leader in the Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka to clarify the charges.

To a question why the Central level leaders were silent on the irregularities in Covid management, Kharge claimed they too would have got their share. The minister added that the title of '40 per cent commission' given to the previous BJP government was not from

the Congress but from their own (BJP) party leaders and Karnataka State Contractors' Association.

"Did we ask them to make money out of corpses? Even though we were alleging that there was large scale corruption in the procurement of medical equipment, the then Speaker said the investigation should not continue further and it is illegal.

'Have you ever heard that the Speaker wrote to the public accounts committee? It is quite visible that everyone's involvement is there - Central as well as the state government," Kharge said.

Asked when the inquiry report was expected, the minister said the commission has not yet submitted the report because it is still inquiring into it since it pertains to a massive Rs 40,000 crore irregularity. Kharge said these charges were

serious because Yatnal has

been repeatedly saying it. He added that Yatnal had been accusing Vijayendra of being a 'Shadow CM' when his father

B S Yediyurappa was the Chief Minister. Yatnal, who has launched a tirade against Yediyurappa and his family, especially after his second son B Y Vijayendra was made the BJP state president, said there was large-scale corruption in coronavirus management during the BJP government.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

White blindness

Areas in and around Delhi experience winter blues as dense fog descends, visibility nears zero

nnual events in the Capital go like clockwork: Now, it is time for fog to blind the NCR. It is like this: First comes the smog in November, which makes a difficult; next up is fog to give a heartburn, a perfect end to the year. As winter the scrouge and surrounding areas have to bear the scrouge firms up its grip on north India, Delhi and surrounding areas have to bear the scrouge of dense fog. This meteorological phenomenon not only adds chill to the air but also disrupts daily life, affecting transportation, and leading to delays and cancellations in surface and air travel. The latest episode of "most intense fog this winter" in Delhi-NCR has been particularly severe, prompting an orange alert and causing chaos. Winter fog is a common occurrence in Delhi, attributed to a combination of factors. The drop in temperature at night, coupled with high humidity, creates the ideal conditions for fog formation. The cool air condenses the moisture present in the atmosphere, resulting in the formation of tiny water droplets or ice crystals, which make up the fog. This



process is accentuated in the early hours, leading to reduced visibility. Yesterday, the minimum temperature was recorded at 7.8 degrees Celsius, and the AQI was in the "very poor" category. The severity of this fog formation prompted Met authorities to issue an orange alert for the NCR. An orange alert signifies that the weather conditions are likely to have a significant impact on daily life. The possibility of accidents is rather high as visibility nears zero, so citizens must take necessary precautions.

At the IGI Airport, flights were delayed or cancelled for two days due to poor visibility conditions. Fliers had to experience frustration and inconvenience as

they grappled with now-uncertain travel plans. Similarly, the railways experienced disruptions, with several trains delayed or cancelled to ensure passenger safety. The combination of reduced visibility and potential hazards on railway tracks necessitated precautionary measures, causing inconvenience to daily commuters. It is a good idea to use fog lights, maintain safe distance and drive slow and cautiously. Meanwhile, to mitigate the impact of dense fog, authorities have implemented various measures: Airports have deployed advanced technology such as 'CAT III Instrument Landing Systems,' which aid pilots during low-visibility conditions. Similarly, the railways have heightened vigilance, and train schedules are adjusted to accommodate the challenges posed by fog. While the orange alert signals the need for caution, it also underscores the importance of preparedness and mitigation measures to minimise disruptions to daily life. The fog, a passing phenomenon though, is enough to remind us that despite all the modern technology, we are still small and helpless in front of Nature. There is, of course, hope that advancements in technology and improved planning will contribute to a safer and more efficient response in future. But, for now, to put it in ad lingo: 'Delhi mein to fog chal raha hai.'



NCC Cadets perform during the full dress rehearsal for the 2024 Republic Day parade, in Jammu

Deciphering the Verdict on Article 370

The Court held that Parliament has legislative powers on state reorganisation and that Article 370 was a temporary provision



IT IS THE

SPECIAL

PREROGATIVE OF

CIRCUMSTANCES

NECESSITATED

ARTICLE 370

DECIDE IF THE

THE PRESIDENT TO

pose till the Constituent Assembly of J&K ratified the Indian Constitution and decided the contours of engagement between the Union of India and the state of I&K for matters other than those mentioned in the Instrument of Accession.

Textually, its placement in Part XXI of the Constitution and the marginal heading of the provision suggest the inference that Article 370 is temporary and transitional. And finally, Article 370(1)(d) and 370(3) had the avowed purpose of constitutional integration of J&K into India. At the time of the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly of J&K, the war-like situation persisted, and hence Article 370 outlived the Constituent Assembly. Holding that Article 370 cannot be abrogated after dissolution would lead to derailing the process of integration which was the purpose of introducing the said article in the first place.

It is the prerogative of the President to decide if the special circumstances that necessitated Article 370 have ceased to exist. The Court did not find any mala fide as the State had already seen a series of integrative endeavours through 370(1)(d), and CO 273 was only the culmination of that process. Further, given the absence of any limitation conthat it was a temporary provision.
Article 370 was needed given the

Cerning the extent or manner of the Constitution's applicaof the Constitution's application, the Court dismissed besides serving an interim pur- claims of non-application of mind merely because CO 272 binding nature of the State applied all provisions of the Constitution to J&K.

The Court highlighted that the consequential effect of applying all provisions of the Constitution to J&K under Article 370(1)(d) mirrors the outcome of issuing a notification under Article 370(3). Since the President had unilateral powers under Article 370(3) post the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly of J&K, hence there was nothing mala fide in the President not seeking concurrence of the state government for the full application of the Constitution under Article 370(1)(d). Thus, the Presidential action was not ultra vires the law laid down in S R Bommai (1994). CO 272 vide Paragraph 2 amends Article 367 by which the Constituent Assembly in proviso to Article 370(3) would mean "Legislative Assembly". And then it abrogates Article 370, effectively amending Article 370. Hence, Paragraph 2 of CO 272 was held unconstitutional however the rest of the portion which extended the whole of the Constitution of India to the state of J&K was held to be valid. The Court categorically held that the power under Article 356 is not subject to Article 357. Hence, Parliament gets not just the legislative power but also the power to give recommendations on behalf of the legislature for irreversible actions like state reorLegislature's recommendations and reasonable nexus between the exercise of power and the

SHASHANK RAI

object sought to be achieved, there was nothing mala fide in the recommendation by Parliament on behalf of the Legislature. The Court directed the restoration of statehood at the earliest possible opportunity. The Court mandated the

Election Commission of India to conduct elections, a fundamental facet of India's representative democracy, to the Legislative Assembly of J&K by 30 September 2024. Justice Kaul recommended setting up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the lines of post-apartheid South Africa which would complement the process of integration of J&K with India. The Court has delineate a nuanced and pivotal perspective on controversial issues of national importance. At the same time, the court's avoidance of conclusively addressing Parliament's power under Article 3 to alter a State's character into Union Territories leaves room for future considerations regarding the scope, impact, and legitimacy of such actions on the principles of federalism, historical context, and repre-

(Siddharth Mishra is Sr Assistant Projessor, Faculty o Law, University of Delhi and Shashank Rai is an advocate at the Supreme Court of *India, views are personal)*

sentative democracy.





vision, namely: the extent of sov-

ereignty enjoyed by J&K, tempo-

rary versus permanent nature of

Article 370, the validity of amend-

ments and abrogation through

constitutional orders (CO), and

scope of parliament's power under

Although Paragraph 8 of the

Instrument of Accession by which

J&K acceded into India, retained

sovereignty with Maharaja Hari

Singh, the subsequent

Proclamation by Yuvraj Karan Singh on 25 November 1949

explicitly stated the supremacy of

the Indian Constitution over all

other conflicting provisions within the state. Furthermore, Article

370 read with Article 1 of the

Indian Constitution declares J&K

to be an integral part of India.

Unlike the Preamble to the Indian

Constitution, there is nothing in

the Constitution of J&K that declares it to be sovereign. On the

contrary, the unamendable

Section 3 of the Constitution of

J&K reinforces the position under Article 1 of the Indian

Constitution. The Bench, distin-

guishing judgements like Prem

Nath Kaul (1959), held that there

was complete subordination of

J&K to the Constitution of India,

and its status aligned with the

principle of asymmetric federal-

ism and not internal sovereignty.

Regarding the status of Article

370, the Court inferred from an

analysis encompassing historical,

extual as well as purposive angles

war-like situation in the State,

Article 3 of the Constitution.

The country is going to be a developed country by 2047; free from poverty, unemployment and deprivation

n the counting of votes held on December 3, **▲**2023, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is going to form government in three of the four big states, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and Congress has won in only one state, Telangana. BJP has often been raising issues of vote bank politics, corruption, dynasty politics etc. in the elections. Issues like the construction of the Ram temple, the abrogation of Article 370, and communal violence, were widely discussed. But history is witness to the fact that even though these issues are important if a party or the government does not work for the welfare of the people, then they will be summarily rejected.

In 2014, India's economy was among the five most fragile economies, facing the tragedy of declining investment and a continuously declining growth rate. But in less than 10 years, India has moved from the tenth to the fifth largest economy of the world.

Today India has also become the fastest growing economy in the world. In such a situ- attempt to ensure the gen- go far to fetch water, which



ation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given new wings to the aspirations of the common people of the country by pledging to become a developed nation before the completion of the first 100 years of independence.

A New Welfare State

Till now, the distribution of money through employment schemes, free or cheap electricity and water, subsidy on petrol, diesel and gas, cheap ration, government expenditure on education and health etc. were considered to be the essence of a welfare state. But over the last 9 years, the definition of the welfare state itself has changed and seems to be improving, which has also received public sup-

Firstly, there has been an

uineness of expenditure on saves the housing scheme, by using technology, in a unique housing scheme. In just a few years, about 3 crore houses have been constructed, for which Rs 5 lakh crore was given by the Central Government and Rs 15 lakh crore was spent by the beneficiaries themselves, who built better houses for themselves in rural and urban areas; and started enjoying a respectable life. Under the Ujjwala scheme, 10 crore poor women were given free LPG connections and later those poor women got cylinders refilled, at their

own expense. Today, on average, Ujjwala beneficiaries get more than three cylinders filled in a year. By providing electricity to almost all the villages in the country, not only has the standard of living improved but the government has also been successful in taking the communication and internet revolution across

the country. The target of providing tap water to all the houses is almost achieved, due to which women do not have to

their time. Construction of toilets in every house has freed us from the curse of open defecation, pictures of which foreigners often used, to show India as a backward nation. Improvement in primary care and most importantly free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh under Ayushman Yojana is proving to be a boon for the less resourceful people.

If seen, all these schemes are for the targeted beneficiaries. Beneficiaries have got relief with the help of the government. According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in just five years from 2015-16 to 2019-21, the index of multidimensional poverty has decreased from

0.122 to just 0.69. Today, the changing circumstances are giving birth to new dimensions to politics in the country, and the country is moving towards becoming a developed country by 2047, free from poverty, unemployment and deprivation.

(The author is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi; views are personal)

SWIMMING POOL AS STATUS SYMBOL

Sir — Over the past few years, it has become a trend to have swimming pools in gated complexes, housing societies, and bungalows. The presence of a pool is believed to enhance the property's value. However, the use, chlorination, and maintenance of these pools vary. During the monsoon seasons, the pools can become breeding sites for mosquitoes. Despite India experiencing two monsoon seasons, water scarcity is prevalent in most states. Even in urban areas, irregular or no water supply is common due to poor water management and misplaced priorities.

In rural areas, the situation is worse, as people have to walk long distances to fetch water for their basic needs. Meanwhile, there are farmhouses with swimming pools equipped with change rooms. Considering these facts, state governments should consider prohibiting swimming pools in private properties, especially if the water supply is sourced from the Public Works Department (PWD) pipeline

that caters to the dwellings. Property owners or housing societies seeking to construct pools should be required to demonstrate the source of water before obtaining a construction license. Strict actions should be taken if any illegalities are discovered. It would be practical for municipalities to construct public swimming pools. This approach would not only create job opportunities and generate a steady income for them but also contribute to water conservation. It is disheartening that, on one hand, numerous people lack proper access to potable water, while others indulge in the luxury of swimming pools.

CK Subramaniam | Chennai

PUNISH THE INHUMANE TEACHERS

Sir — A distressing incident has come to light involving students from Class 7 to 9 at Morarji Desai Residential School in Malur. Authorities forced these students to clean a septic tank as a form of punishment, despite the fact that manual scavenging was

THE EDITOR

ganization. Given the non-



banking regulations that aim to ensure the stability and safety of the global banking system. They were developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, a group of central bankers and bank supervisors from around the world, in response to the global financial crises of the 1980s and 1990s. Basel I norms were intro-

ed to instill not only textbook knowledge but also ideas of equality, dignity, mutual respect, and love.

The teachers who compelled students to engage in such degrading work have violated the fundamental principles of their profession. It is imperative that the government takes immediate action to ensure that such degrading actions do not occur in any school. Efforts should be made to create the best living and learning environment in all residential schools.

Kalimullah | Jamshedpur

CONCERNS OVER ELECTION OF CECS

Sir — During the Winter Session, the Lok Sabha passed the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, condition of service and term of office) bill 2023. This bill replaces the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.

According to the new bill, the CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and the banned 30 years ago. Schools are expect- Leader of the Opposition or leader of the

duced in 1988 and Basel II in 2004 Basel III was introduced in 2010 by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) to further strengthen regulation, supervision, and risk management within the banking sector. It was introduced in response to the global financial crisis of 2007-2008, to improve the resilience of banks and reduce the risk of systemic failures. The present status of Basel III norms in India is that the RBI has extended the deadline for the full implementation of the norms to March 31, 2022, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the banking sector. The RBI has also provided some regulatory relief to banks in terms of capital and liquidity requirements to mitigate

the stress caused by the pandemic.

CK Ramanathan | *Ghaziabad*

largest opposition party in Lok Sabha. This amendment raises concerns as the previous law included the Chief Justice of India (CII) in the selection committee. The substitution of the CJI with the Union Cabinet Minister has sparked a debate, suggesting that the bill may be acting against established law, potentially leading to an arbitrary shift of power to the Union government.

The government argues that the bill aims to bring transparency to the appointment process of the chief election commissioner and election commissioner. However, the substitution of the Union Minister may tilt the balance in favor of the ruling party in the selection committee, diminishing the influence of the opposition leader. This could lead to the government selecting individuals without adequate scrutiny, potentially undermining the transparency sought by the bill. This bill raises concerns about its impact on the Election Commission, a crucial pillar of democracy responsible for maintaining fairness in conducting elections.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN MIND IS A **GREAT HEALER**

Mind has the potential to destroy carcinogenic cells, eliminate toxins and combat infections



Inter was quite chilly in Delhi and to keep himself warm, a middle-aged obese man had a swig of Old Monk rum. Soon, he started perspiring and feeling nauseous and felt a real thud in his chest region. His anxious homemaker-wife rushed to their neighbours seeking help. Visiting the neighbours was an Art of Living teacher, who immediately rushed to the aid of the patient. He advised the patient to adopt a posture called the Sanjeevani mudra and take deep breaths. The mudra entails fixing the index finger on the base of the thumb and the middle and ring finger touch the tip of the thumb, while the little finger is spread apart. While adopting the mudra the individual needs to take deep Ujjavi breaths.

The patient afflicted with the heart attack surrendered to his saviour and continued with this breathing technique, till he was hospitalized. The ECG did not reveal any great damage to the heart and the medical team grudgingly accepted the intrinsic and therapeutic values of the Sanjeevani mudra.

On recovering completely, the gentleman undertook courses in the Art of Living, which detoxified his system and cured him of the craving for alcohol. This helped him stage both a physical and mental recovery. "Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes a matter of great opportunity," said Hippocrates. The mind plays a pivotal role in the healing process of an individual. When we get up every morning, we should take a few deep breaths and feel grateful and blessed about whatever has been provided by nature and our Universe.



The mind remains an enigma, with a reservoir of potential that we fail to tap. If exploited to the optimum level, it can help in destroying carcinogenic cells, eliminating toxins, combating infections, fighting foreign bodies, and enhancing self-repair mechanisms. The placebo effect also plays a major role in recovery. The mind has also been called an 'amygdala' which may harbour negative thoughts and beliefs such as financial woes, relationship problems, work stress, general pessimism, and feelings of threat. These attributes act as a roadblock to attaining good health.

The breath and the mind have a deep relationship. By simply observing the breath, toxins get expelled from the system and there is great mental clarity to view life in its totality. A power of discrimination dawns on the individual and he/she can focus on what the body needs, the quantum of exercise to be performed, the exact intake of food required, the amount of medication needed, whether the job or living conditions are irksome and if any changes are required to be made and take necessary steps in that direction. An architect imagines a building, conceives a blueprint, and designs a beautiful home. Similarly, a dancer or a painter through mental imagery visualizes a piece of art that is appealing and becomes the cynosure of all eyes.

Soulful singers conjure melody and symphony which strike the right notes and chords in our hearts and we are transported to an ethereal world. All this creation is the magic of the mind. Similarly, the middle-aged man (who suffered the heart attack), surrendered his physical and mental unwelcome situations to a superior power and adopted various techniques and strategies of self-healing.

However, the success of the therapies lies in the orientation of the mind. The mind must be necessarily a YES MIND, believing that success is guaranteed, and their lives would be transformed with the power of mind injecting positive affirmations such as "I am transformed", "I am healed" and "I am feeling wonderful".

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. and is a faculty of the Art of Living. Views are personal)

Malpractices in the trade of medicines



There is a huge trade margin, especially on generic medicines, including those marketed by renowned drug manufacturers. Even branded medicines have exorbitant profit margins

an Aushadhi Kendras are now being opened under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna claiming a huge saving to commoners ranging from 50-90 per cent on the purchase of generic medicines from these about 10000 centres throughout the country with the average monthly sale of just rupees 1.50 lakhs per month for each centre. Much more could and should be achieved simply by fixing a maximum trade margin on all medicines and medical consumables including generic medicines of say 30 per cent between ex-factory price and maximum retail price

Presently there is a huge trade margin, especially on generic medicines where a box of 10-20 strips is available with distributors at about one-tenth of printed MRP including those marketed by renowned drug manufacturers of branded medicines. Even branded medicines had varying trade margins with a box of 10 strips of 10 capsules each of Bifilac-HP with a total printed MRP of rupees 2100 per box available with the distributor at just rupees 1140 per box. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) established that even essential drugs in India with the lowest printed MRP are exorbitantly priced over manufacturing followed by abnormally high trade margins between ex-factory price and MRP. The same holds good for other medical consumables like a box of 200 Accu-Chek Safe T Pro Uno single-use lancing devices with printed MRP of rupees 2200 used to be available at just rupees 400 only.

Drug manufacturers at times pack just eight lozenges per strip of commonly advertised cough medicines instead of ten because consumers usually judge by price per strip rather than per lozenge. Many drug manufacturers have started packing medicines in strips of fifteen rather than earlier ten to boost up sales because most chemists sell complete medicine rather than cutting the strip to sell in bulk. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) should direct all medicines to be compulsorily packed in units of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000 and likewise higher multiples unless permission is sought from concerned authorities to pack certain medicines in units other than these for dose-wise administration. The name of the medicine is usually printed just once on the ide of the medicine strip. The wrapping foil must be so designed that the name of the medicine may appear for each packed tablet/capsule with the name of the medicine also embossed/printed on each tablet/capsule.

Ex-factory prices of different branded medicines for the same basic salt have vast differences. Branded medicines from different renowned companies are priced with heavy differences depending on the popularity of the brand like Calmpose and Valium-5 both having Diazepam-5 as basic salt have huge price-difference. Government-owned Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), since closed, sold Diazepam-5 under the brand name Calmod at a still lower price. Medicines are put in different categories for price-regulation with Calmpose and Valium-5 put in a category where there is no price-regulation. The system of having multiple categorisations for medicines must be removed because patients have to take prescribed medicine irrespective





A BOX OF 10-20 STRIPS IS AVAILABLE WITH DISTRIBUTORS AT **ABOUT ONE-**TENTH OF PRINTED MRP INCLUDING THOSE MARKETED BY RENOWNED DRUG **MANUFACTURERS** OF BRANDED **MEDICINES**

A study conducted by a prominent newspaper in the year 2018 revealed that five chemist shops around the premier Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh were selling a particular medicine having prices ranging from rupees 255 to rupees 1550. There is a regular price increase for many branded medicines, with NPPA being a mute spectator. NPPA should devise a mechanism whereby drug companies may be allowed to have some basic profit margin on all types of drugs irrespective of their categorization allowing any price revision only once in a year. Madras High Court once directed the Income Tax Department to submit details of claims made by pharmaceutical companies towards tax deductions for gifts made to doctors, names of doctors and penalties paid by these companies for drug overpricing. Any type of gifts by drug companies must be banned. Paying commissions to medical practitioners by pathological laboratories, investigating centres and hospitals should also be a criminal offence to ensure economical medical investigations. Private hospitals should be directed not to take any share from consulting/visiting fees of medical practitioners. Some upper limits should be fixed for the consultation fees of medical prac-

Since the wholesale medicine market of Bhagirath Palace (Delhi) has virtually turned to be a retail market giving 20-25 per cent discounts even on single strips of medicines, tenders can be invited for opening chemist-shops in government and private hospitals at least in big cities where branded medicines may be available even in single strips at 20-per cent discounts. Only branded medicines should be allowed to be prescribed in all fields of medicines including Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Unani, and Homeopathy with the Central Government having its large production units for every type of medicine by reviving Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL). Central Information Commission (CIC) in its order dated 01.10.2018 recommended that NPPA and others concerned consider all these suggestions in the larger public interest. But NPPA challenged the CIC decision just on recommenda-(and not directions) at the Delhi High Court. Soon after Competition Commission of India (CCI) in its policy note also pointed out unreasonably high trade margins as a reason for exorbitant drug prices. But no corrective measures are seen at least on nonessential and generic medicines. BJP MP Bhartruhari Mahtab raised the issue of generic drugs in Lok Sabha on 19.07.2019, rightly demanding an inquiry to find out the efficacy of generic drugs quoting a book study that Indian drug manufacturers were producing quality generic medicines for US and European countries with substandard generic medicines marketed in domestic market. NPPA should ensure that generic medicines sold in Indian markets are of export quality. Export of worldclass generic medicines can provide the country with adequate foreign exchange and reputation.

Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court in the year 2018 imposed a fine on three doctors for illegible handwriting on injury reports. Odisha High Court on 13.08.2020 advised doctors to write legible prescriptions preferably in capital letters. Medical practitioners should compulsorily issue computerised prescriptions.

The Union Health Ministry should develop user-friendly software separately for hospitals, pathological laboratories and medical practitioners providing a unique ID for each patient so that complete medical history may be available even online to the patient. Dual pricing must not be allowed in health services including for pathological and biochemical tests for normal patients and those covered under the Government Health Scheme

Vegetarian cellulose capsules should be encouraged to replace non-vegetarian gelatin capsules presently having a 98-percent market share to respect the sentiments of the majority vegetarian population. The Supreme Court ruling of the year 2013 made it possible to distinguish vegetarian and non-vegetarian medicines by having green and red dots. Providing land at subsidised cost/lease is substantial government funding. All such hospitals should be directed to sue-motto declare themselves as public authorities under section 2(h) of the RTI Act, or else pay marketprice of land provided to these hospitals at current market rates.

(The Writer is an RTI consultant holding the Guinness World record, views are personal)

Measuring skilling success: Metrics that matter

The imperative to measure the impact of skilling programmes goes beyond a statistical exercise. It is crucial for ensuring their effectiveness and relevance

n the realm of nonprofit programs, the conven-Lional metric for success often revolves around their reach-the sheer number of individuals served. However, this simplistic measure can be misleading, as a focus on 'quantity' alone does not guarantee meaningful transformation or lasting impact. Prioritizing quantity over quality runs the risk of compromising program excel-

The right way to expand a nonprofit's impact is to build programs on three pillars: breadth, depth, and durability. Scaling requires advancement in all three dimensions simultaneously.

While the particular metrics used by each organisation may differ, some version of



ARUNESH SINGH

each of these elements must be measured and advanced collectively to remain on the right path.

Let's start with the example we know best, Generation, a global employment nonprofit network that recruits, trains, and places adult learners into careers that would otherwise be inaccessible to

At Generation, we define "breadth" as the number of learners who graduate from our programs-the most basic unit of impact-but we also use depth to capture the employment and income outcomes of those graduates within three months of program completion.

Finally, we also track durability, or how well these outcomes persist over time: We interactions, learner out-

follow the financial and personal well-being of our alumni for up to five years after they graduate by measuring their ability to cover daily financial needs while saving for the future and taking care of their mental and physical health. Each of these pillars are equally important, and our goal is to move all three forward together. We can embrace these essential approaches to assess the impact of skilling programs:

1. Defining Clear Goals and Indicators: Meticulously outline specific objectives for programs, identifying measurable indicators to encapsulate the changes aspired to achieve. This includes evaluating the frequency and quality of

comes, and stakeholder feed-

Rigorous Data and KPI Analysis: Emphasise robust data and Key Performance Indicator (KPI) analysis to assess program performance and effectiveness. Valuable insights into the outcomes of initiatives can be gained through the tracking and analysis of relevant metrics.

Stakeholder **Engagement and Feedback:** Actively seek feedback from learners and engage with various stakeholders, including local governments, training partners, donor partner and employers, to tap into valuable insights. This feedback will not only provide insights into program impact but will also fuel continuous sion of empowering youth

improvement efforts. Challenges

Opportunities While significant strides have been made in impact measurement, the field presents its own set of challenges. The concept of employability and its measurement can vary significantly across different stakeholders, leading to a lack of coherence in defining and measuring outcomes. However, this challenge also presents an opportunity for organizations to work towards establishing an agreed-upon definition of impact and employability, allowing for more aligned and effective measurement

practices.

Looking Ahead As we continue on our mis-

through skilling programs, the focus on impact measurement remains paramount. By leveraging the right mix of metrics and tools, any organisation can further enhance its ability to assess, communicate, and improve the outcomes of its initiatives. This commitment to robust impact measurement not only benefits the organisation but also contributes to the broader goal of creating positive and sustainable change in the workforce development landscape. The imperative to measure

the impact of skilling programs goes beyond a statistical exercise. It is crucial for ensuring their effectiveness and relevance. By defining clear goals, leveraging the right metrics, and embracing

ability to assess, communicate, and improve the outcomes of their programs. In essence, moving beyond the fixation on numbers is a journey toward a holistic understanding of impactone that transcends quantity and embraces the transformative potential inherent in the quality of skilling programs. This shift in perspective heralds a new era where success is measured not just

by the breadth of reach but by

the depth of positive change

and the enduring impact on

the lives of those touched by

these programs.

stakeholder feedback, organi-

zations can enhance their

(The writer is CEO, Generation India Foundation, views are personal)

Ex-Pak foreign min re-arrested

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party's vice chairman and a close aide of former prime minister Imran Khan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi was on Wednesday manhandled by police as they re-arrested him outside a jail in Rawalpindi, a step termed "illegal" by him and

his party.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) released a video on X where Qureshi, who was granted bail in the cipher case by the Supreme Court last week, is seen being pushed and shoved by policemen after he was picked up right at the gate of the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi and packed off into an armoured police vehicle.

The footage of the incident also aired on multiple television and social media channels showed the 67-year-old former foreign minister, clad in a cardigan and a shalwar kameez, loudly protesting the "illegality" of the police's actions, being shoved into an armoured police vehicle by officials wearing the Punjab police uniform.
"This treatment of an inter-

nationally respected senior politician with unparalleled service to Pakistan is a sign of the cowardice of the ruling elite. The law has been made a mockery and the basic constitutional rights of citizens are being bla-tantly violated," the party's post on X said, adding, "Pakistani people will never forget this cruelty and injustice."Qureshi was released from jail on bail after the Rawalpindi DC withdrew an order for detaining the ex-former foreign minister for 15 days under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) and added that police had not yet provided an official comment on the incident.

The PTI shared another video on Instagram that showed Qureshi attempting to speak to police personnel gathered outside the jail while he remained inside its premises. "However, an official wearing the Punjab police uniform refused to listen and proceeded to shove Qureshi out the gate and toward an armoured police vehicle," Dawn.com reported from the video footage. "Look at this. What is this?" Qureshi said as he



was pushed the entire way to the van while the crowd yelled at officials to be careful. On Friday, the top court granted bail to Khan and Qureshi in the cipher case and demanded to submit surety bonds worth Rs 1 million each. Qureshi's family on Tuesday had arrived at Adiala jail to pay his surety bond but before they could obtain the robkar (release order), Deputy Rawalpindi Commissioner (DC) Hassan Waqar Cheema issued the order for the former foreign minister's 15-day detention under MPO.

Section 3 of MPO empowers the government to arrest and detain suspected persons to prevent them from "acting in any manner prejudicial to public safety or the maintenance of

public order."
"However, a subsequent notification issued by the DC said that the detention order had been withdrawn," Dawn.com said and claimed it had a copy of it. "The detainee shall be released from the jail forthwith if he is not required to be detained in any other case," it said. Speaking to reporters outside Adiala Jail, PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said, "If the Supreme Court granted bail to Qureshi on the basis that elections need to be free and fair and transparent, then the ECP needs to make sure he is released." Gohar Khan said that the party would approach the election commission and also the high court if necessary.

"I also told the ECP that it would have been very good if they personally went out today and surveyed what was happening in various locations," Gohar said, adding that he would nonetheless submit an application to them. Both Khan and Qureshi have been incarcerated in multiple cases.

'Benazir's death still remains unsolved mystery'

As Pakistan on Wednesday marked the 16th death anniversary of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, the mystery surrounding her assassination remains unsolved, according to a media report.

Bhutto, Pakistan's first woman prime minister, was assassinated in a suicide bomb blast-cum-gun shooting attack outside the famous Liaquat Bagh as she was about to depart after addressing an election rally on December 27, 2007. She was aged 54. Pakistan was under the rule of military dictator General Pervez Musharraf at that time.

According to a report in Geo News, Bhutto's party — Pakistan People's Party (PPP) - remained in power from 2008 till 2013 but was unable to take any meaningful steps to find the people and forces

"With each passing day, the mystery surrounding the assassination of Benazir Bhutto continued to grow. First with the change of the route of her return after addressing the rally, a hurried washing of the

crime scene by the administra-

tion, washing away critical evi-

behind her assassination

dence, and a shake-up in top local bureaucracy," the report The administration at that

eral elections, being boycotted

by the main opposition BNP.

with senior party leaders and sympathisers, said while unveil-

ing her party's poll manifesto in

give you development, peace,

and prosperity," Hasina, 76,

said, adding that her party

does not believe in rhetoric, but

implements whatever it

Development is visible, now

employment will enhance" as

the theme for the manifesto,

setting 11 priorities for build-

ing a modern, technology-oriented country, and pledges to

modernise the healthcare sec-

tor with a "universal health sys-

tem". "In the 2008 election

'Smart

The Awami League coined

Bangladesh:

"You vote for us; we will

a crowded press conference.

time had declared the incident "a terror strike" and even released intercepts of alleged terrorists' telephonic conversations and sketches of two persons purported as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) mem-

Musharraf had called an investigation team from Scotland Yard of the United Kingdom to investigate the killing of Bhutto. The probe

PPP and former president and Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari rejected the Scotland Yard report, declaring it inept and full of doubts, and accused Musharraf of being behind the assassination.

There were repeated demands for an independent inquiry by the UN into the incident by the PPP government and eventually, Bank Ki-Moon, the then Secretary-General of the United Nations announced in February 2009 for sending a high-level UN Fact Finding Mission to look into the incident. The UN Fact-Finding

Mission arrived in Islamabad in July 2009 and released its report but that was vague and without any conclusive remarks regardidentifying the culprits behind the tragic incident.

The UN Fact-Finding Mission report was rejected by

stance and no efforts were made by the UN Mission to point out the people and the elements behind the gruesome suicide attack on the two-time prime minister.

"Over the last 16 years, there have been multiple theories behind the elimination of Benazir Bhutto but there is hardly any solid evidence available to corroborate those theories," the Geo News report

"But there were enough events that followed BB's assassination which strongly indicated that all out efforts were made to hide the facts to confuse things and mislead the investigators who tried to solve the 'mystery," it said.

As Pakistan marked the 16th anniversary of Bhotto's "violent death the mystery is still unsolved", the report said.

'SL Tamils should field common prez candidate'

Colombo (PTI): It is important for the Tamil community in Sri Lanka to field a common candidate in the country's next presidential election, according to a veteran Tamil politician. According to Sri Lanka's Constitution, the next presidential election should be announced by September 2024 and must be held before November-end.

Ranil was appointed as the President on July 20, 2022, to fill the remaining term of Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was ousted from power in a popular uprising. Replying to a question, former chief minister C V Wigneswaran on Tuesday told reporters in Jaffna that the interests of the Tamils would be best served if a common candidate contests the presidential polls rather than individual

Pak conducts successful flight test of Fatah-II

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan on Wednesday conducted a successful flight test of indigenously developed guided multi-launch rocket system 'Fatah-II', which is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres, the

army said.

The 'Fatah-II' is "equipped with state-of-the-art avionics, sophisticated navigation system and unique flight trajectory," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the military, said in a statement. The weapon system is "capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres," it said.

The launch was witnessed by senior officers from tri-services and dedicated scientists and engineers, it added.

In October end, Pakistan successfully conducted a training launch of the Ghauri Weapon System, a week after holding the flight test of the ballistic missile Ababeel Weapon



"Come; once again allow us to serve you by voting for the 'boat', the election symbol of the Awami League," Hasina, along manifesto, we announced Vision 2021, which was a charter of change. We successfully ran the country after overcoming hundreds of hurdles by winning the 2014 and 2018 elections," Hasina said.

Meanwhile, ailing former premier Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is carrying out an antielection street campaign, calling for intermittent strikes and transport blockades, saying no election under the incumbent government would be fair or neutral. The BNP has also called for civil disobedience against the Hasina-led dispensation, urging people not to pay taxes and utility bills to press its demand for a non-party interim government for election oversight by amending the country's Constitution.

The BNP is boycotting the election after its demand for an interim non-party neutral government to organise the voting was rejected by the government. The party had boycotted the 2014 election but took part in 2018 polls, which party leaders later said was a mistake alleging that the voting was marred with widespread rigging and intimidation.

Launching the manifesto, Hasina criticised the Opposition, saying, "Whenever the election comes, an anti-liberation, anti-Bangladesh, and anti-development circle becomes active with a leap of conspiracy."

She said ahead of the polls every time, the Opposition appeared in the political landscape to grab the state power through back doors and "if unsuccessful, they jump on the people in the spirit of revenge". "They want to intimidate the public through arson, vehicle burning, bombing, sabotage, or terrorist activities. This time was no exception," Hasina said.

Since October 29, the BNP has been holding intermittent nationwide strikes and transport blockades. According to a media tally, 11 people died, 386

trains were derailed from tracks in the past two months in political violence. Police arrested thousands of opposition activists and figures, including de-facto BNP leader and party secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, over charges of violence.

Hasina alleged that BNP is hatching conspiracies from abroad, in an apparent reference to the party's acting chairman and Zia's son Tarique Rahman who has taken refuge in the UK to evade jail terms.

Several Bangladeshi courts declared Rahman a "fugitive" as he took refuge in the UK to evade jail terms for several criminal charges, including a grenade attack on a rally of the then-opposition Awami League in 2004 in which 24 people

Hasina narrowly escaped the attack, which also wounded some 500 of her party leaders, activists and supporters.

Zia, 79, was also convicted and jailed on two graft charges with a 17-year jail term. However, she is now in a hospital with multiple health issues. The US and other major Western countries called for dialogue between the ruling

inclusive and credible election, which, however, saw no headway due to reluctance from both sides.

With the BNP boycotting the election, and no other credible opposition party against it, Hasina's Awami League is likely to gain an upper hand and likely to form the government for the fourth consecutive term.

BNP's boycott of polls had initially exposed the Awami League to a challenge of legit-imising the January 7 polls as the Jatiya Party (JAPA), which is officially or technically the main opposition in the current Parliament, was also reluctant to take part in the upcoming

However, earlier this month, Awami League decided to spare 26 out of the 300 parliamentary seats to JAPA in an apparent effort to persuade the party to take part in the January 7 elections in BNP's absence, while its nominees withdrew their candidature from these seats. Political analysts opined that the JAPA's previous stance of unwillingness to contest the polls was a bargaining technique.

Tokyo court

holds utility

compensate

Fukushima

evacuees

responsible to

Tokyo (AP): A Tokyo court on

Tuesday held only the operator

of the tsunami-wrecked

Fukushima nuclear power

plant responsible for paying

damages to dozens of evacuees.

The Tokyo High Court also

slashed the amount to half of

what the lower court had

ordered and relieved the gov-

ernment of responsibility — a decision that plaintiffs and

their lawyers criticised as belit-

tling their suffering and the

China sanctions US research firm, 2 others over reports on human rights abuses with them. In a statement on lilate Uyghurs and other Turkic prison sentences elsewhere.

hina says it is banning a United States research company and two analysts who have reported extensively on claims of human rights abuses committed against Uyghurs and other Muslim minority groups native to the country's far northwestern region of Xinjiang. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning was quoted as announcing late Tuesday night that Los Angeles-based research and data analytics firm Kharon, its director of investigations, Edmund Xu, and Nicole Morgret, a human rights analyst affiliated with the Centre for Advanced Defence Studies, would be barred from travelling to China.

Also, any assets or property they have in China will be frozen and organisations and individuals in China are prohibited from making transactions or otherwise cooperating website, Mao said the sanctions against the company, Xu and Morgret were retaliation for a yearly US government report on human rights in Xinjiang.

Uyghurs and other natives of the region share religious, linguistic and cultural links with the scattered peoples of Central Asia and have long resented the Chinese Communist Party's heavyhanded control and attempts to assimilate them with the majority Han ethnic group.
In a paper published in June 2022, Morgret wrote, "The

Chinese government is undertaking a concerted drive to industrialise the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), which has led an increasing number of corporations to establish manufacturing operations there. This centrally-controlled industrial policy is a key tool in the government's efforts to forcibly assimof a coerced labour regime."

Such reports draw from a wide range of sources, including independent media, nongovernmental organizations and groups that may receive commercial and governmental grants or other outside funding.

China has long denied such allegations, saying the large-scale network of prisonlike facilities through which passed hundreds of thousands of Muslim citizens were intended only to rid them of violent, extremist tendencies and teach them job skills.

Former inmates describe harsh conditions imposed without legal process and demands that they denounce their culture and sing the praises of President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party daily.

China says the camps are all now closed, but many of their former inmates have reportedly been given lengthy ists, diplomats and others is tightly controlled, as is movement outside the region by Uyghurs, Kazaks and other Muslim minorities.

"By issuing the report, the United States once again spread false stories on Xinjiang and illegally sanctioned Chinese officials and companies citing so-called human rights issues, Mao was quoted as saying.

If the United States refuses to change course, China will not flinch and will respond in kind," Mao was quoted as telling reporters at an earlier

news briefing.

The US has slapped visa bans and a wide range of other sanctions on dozens of officials from China and the semiautonomous city of Hong Kong, including the country's former defence minister, who disappeared under circumstances China has yet to

Students in Indonesia protest growing numbers of Rohingya refugees

Students in Indonesia's Aceh province rallied on Wednesday demanding the government drive away Rohingya refugees arriving by boat in growing numbers as police named more suspects of human trafficking. Over 1,500 Rohingya, who fled violent attacks in Myanmar and now are leaving camps in neighbouring Bangladesh in search of better lives, have arrived in Aceh off the tip of Sumatra

since November. They have faced some hostility from fellow Muslims in Aceh. About 200 students protested in front of the provincial parliament in Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh province, to call on lawmakers to reject Rohingya refugees, saying their presence would bring social and economic upheaval in the community. The protesters chanted "Get out Rohingya!"



and criticised the government and the UN refugee agency for failing to manage the refugee arrivals. Some protesters burned tires on the street.

We urged the parliament speaker to immediately take a firm action to remove all Rohingya refugees from Aceh, said Teuku Wariza, a protest

The protesters marched to

a local community hall in Banda Aceh, where about 135 Rohingya were taking shelter. The demonstrators threw out clothes and household items belonging to the refugees, forcing authorities to relocate them to another shelter.

Indonesia had once tolerated the refugees while Thailand and Malaysia pushed them away.

severity of the disaster. The court ordered only the Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, known as TEPCO, to pay a total of 23.5 million yen (USD 165,000) to 44 of the 47 plaintiffs, while not holding the government

accountable. Tuesday's ruling apparently backpedaled from an earlier decision in March 2018, when the Tokyo District Court held both the government and TEPCO accountable for the disaster, which the ruling said could have been prevented if they both took better precautionary measures, ordering both to pay 59 million yen

(USD 414,400) in damages. The decision comes at a time when Japan's government tries to accelerate reactor restarts to maximise nuclear energy to meet decarbonization targets, while seeking to tone down the impact of the nuclear disaster 13 years ago, and its memory gradually fades.

Three reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant melted after a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami hit on March 11, 2011, releasing

massive amounts of radiation in the area and displacing more than 160,000 people at one About 27,000 of them are

Ukrainian regular forces could hold the territory. Fine, his still unable to return home.

How Ukrainian special forces secured Dnipro River crossing? "The emphasis was placed on

AP ■ KHERSON (UKRAINE)

Their first battle plan was I outdated the moment the dam crumbled. So the Ukrainian special forces officers spent six months adapting their fight to secure a crossing to the other side of the Dnipro River in southern Ukraine. But it wasn't enough just to cross the river. They needed backup to hold it. And for that, they needed proof that it could be done. For one of the officers, nicknamed Skif, that meant a Ukrainian flag — and a photo

Skif, Ukrainian shorthand for the nomadic Scythian peo-ple who founded an empire on what is now Crimea, moves like the camouflaged amphibian that he is: Calculating, deliberate, until the time to strike.

He is a Centre 73 officer, one of Ukraine's most elite units of special forces — water



operations specialists, frontline scouts, drone operators, underwater saboteurs. They are part of the Special Operations Forces that run partisans in occupied territories, sneak into Russian barracks to plant

bombs and prepare the ground

for reclaiming territory seized

Their mission on the more

dynamic of the two main fronts in the six-month counteroffensive reflects many of the problems of Ukraine's broader effort. It's been one of the few counteroffensive successes for the Ukrainian army. By late

May, the Centre 73 men were in place along the river's edge, some almost within view of the Kakhovka Dam. They were within range of the Russian forces who had controlled the dam and land across the Dnipro since the first days after the February 2022 fullscale invasion. And both sides knew Ukraine's looming counteroffensive had its sights on control of the river as the key to reclaim the occupied south.

In the operation's opening days, on June 6, an explosion destroyed the dam, sending a wall of reservoir water down-stream and washing out the Ukrainian army positions. An AP investigation found evidence Russia was responsible.

"We were ready to cross. And then the dam blew up," Skif said. The water rose 20 meters (yards), submerging Skif's supply lines, the Russian positions and everything else in its path. The race was on: Whose forces could seize the islands when the waters receded, and with them full control of the Dnipro? AP joined one of the clandestine units several times over six months along the Dnipro. The frogmen are nocturnal. They transform themselves from nondescript civilians into elite fighters, some in wetsuits and some in boats. In the morning, when their operations end, they're back to anonymity.

They rarely take credit for

their work. Ukraine created the special services operations in response to Russia's lightningfast annexation of Crimea in 2014, a precursor to the widescale invasion of Ukraine eight years later."We realised that we were much smaller in terms of number than our enemy," said Oleksandr Kindratenko, a press officer for

Special Operations Forces.

quality. These were supposed to be small groups performing operational or strategic tasks He said they were trained

Europeans, including those from NATO countries, but their own recent battle experience means they are now as much teachers as students. Tasks that the unit consid-

ing explosives under their noses, underwater operations – most soldiers would consider high-risk. High-risk missions are practically a death wish. Skif knew he first had to

plan and persuade the generals that if his men could secure a bridgehead – a strategic crossing point - it would be worthwhile to send troops. And that would mean high-risk river missions.

But a lucky thing hap-

and equipped in part by he'd feared. He made contact with Ukrainian intelligence and said

ers routine – scouting as close to Russians as possible, planted to know about their unit on the little island they were now

experienced men.

commander said.

pened in early autumn. A Russian officer who claimed he'd been opposed to the war since its beginning was sent to the front in Kherson. It was, he later said, every bit as bad as

he had 11 comrades who felt similarly. The group surrendered together and Skif ended up taking custody of the Russian officer and his men. The surrendered Russians told him exactly what he need-

tasked with taking, just outside the village of Krynky. He was sure he could take the island and more with 20

But not without the promise of sufficient backup so

Israel launches heavy strikes across central & southern Gaza

AP RAFAH (GAZA STRIP)

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{srael}}$ launched heavy strikes across central and southern Gaza overnight and into Wednesday after broadening its offensive against Hamas to more areas where the military had told Palestinians to seek shelter earlier in the war.

Residents reported heavy bombing in the built-up Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza, in the southern city of Khan Younis and in the southern town of Rafah, areas where tens of thousands have sought refuge as much of northern Gaza was pounded to rubble. "It was a night of hell. We haven't seen such bombing since the start of the war," said Rami Abu Mosab, speaking from the Bureij camp, where he has been sheltering since fleeing his home in northern Gaza. He said warplanes flew overhead and gunfire and explosions echoed from the eastern edge of the camp — which, like others in Gaza, houses refugees from the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation and their descendants and now resembles other densely populated neighbourhoods.

A home near Abu Mosab's shelter was hit, but no one was able to reach the area, he said. Mobile phone and internet service was down for several hours before being gradually restored on Wednesday, the latest of several such outages that have complicated rescue efforts.

With much of northern Gaza levelled, Palestinians fear a similar fate awaits other areas, including Khan Younis, where Israeli forces launched ground operations in early December, and a cluster of built-up refugee camps in central Gaza where the focus has shifted this week.



Palestinians walk through the aftermath of the Israeli military raid on Nur Shams refugee camp in the West Bank, Wednesday. Israel's forces raided a refugee camp in the northern occupied West Bank, killing at least six Palestinians, Palestinian health authorities said early on

The military's latest evacuation orders cover an area of central Gaza that was home to nearly 90,000 people before the war and now shelters more than said the bombing campaign and ground offensive

61,000 displaced people, mostly from the north, according to the UN humanitarian office. Israel has

repeat of its Oct 7 attack, in which militants broke through Israel's formidable defenses and killed some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducted around 240. An estimated 129 remain in captivity after dozens were freed.

Achieving its goals, Israel has said, will take

DEATH, DISPLACEMENT AND STARVATION

Its offensive is already one of the most devastating military campaigns in recent history. More than 20,900 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children, have been killed, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza. The count doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants.

Some 85% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million Palestinians have fled their homes, crowding into smaller and smaller areas in recent weeks as the ground offensive has expanded. For many Palestinians, the exodus has echoes of the mass displacement in 1948 that they refer to as the Nakba,

UN officials say a quarter of the territory's population is starving under Israel's siege, which allows in a trickle of food, water, fuel, medicine and other supplies. Last week, the UN Security Council called for immediately speeding up aid deliveries, but there has been little sign of change.

US calls for Israel to curb civilian casualties, and international pressure for a cease-fire, have also had little effect. Israel blames Hamas for the high civilian death toll in Gaza because the militants operhas killed thousands of militants, without presenting evidence, and that 164 of its soldiers have been killed since the ground offensive began.

STRIKES IN LEBANON, WEST BANK

The war has ignited other fronts across the Middle East. Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group have repeatedly traded fire along the border. An Israeli strike on a family home overnight killed a Hezbollah fighter, his brother and his sister-in-law, local officials and state media said Wednesday. Another family member was wounded. In the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces killed at least six Palestinians during an overnight raid in the built-up refugee camp of Nur Shams, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. More than $300\ Palestinians$ have been killed in the West Bank since the start of the war, mostly in confrontations with Israeli forces during raids and protests.

As fears of a wider conflict mount, the US, Qatar and Egypt have been working on a new agreement to release more hostages. US President Joe Biden spoke with the ruling emir of Qatar on Tuesday.

Hamas says no more hostages will be released until Israel ends the war, and that it will trade the remaining captives for large numbers of Palestinian prisoners, including high-profile militants. Israel has ejected both demands. Egypt has floated a proposal to end the war that would include the release of all hostages held in Gaza and all Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, as well as the establishment of a government of Palestinian technocrats to administer Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

Michigan SC to keep Trump on 2024 ballot

AP MICHIGAN

Michigan's Supreme Court is keeping former President Donald Trump on the state's primary election ballot. court said Wednesday it will not hear an appeal of a lower court's ruling from groups seeking to keep Trump from appearing on the ballot. It said in an order that the application by parties to appeal a Dec. 14 Michigan appeals court judgment was considered, but denied "because we are not persuaded that the questions presented should be reviewed by this court."

The ruling contrasts with Dec. 19 decision by a divided Colorado Supreme Court which found Trump ineligible to be president because of his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. That ruling was the first time in history that Section 3 of the 14th Amendment has been used to disqualify a presidential candidate.

The Michigan and Colorado cases are among dozens hoping to keep Trump's point to the so-called insurrection clause that prevents anyone from holding office who "engaged in insurrection or rebellion" against the Constitution. Until the Colorado ruling, all had failed.

The Colorado ruling is likely to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which has never ruled on the rarely used Civil War-era provision.

The plaintiffs in Michigan can technically try again to disqualify Trump under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment in the general election, though it's likely there will be a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the issue by then. The state's high court on Wednesday upheld an appeals court ruling that the Republican Party could place anyone it wants on the primary ballot. But the court was silent on whether Section 3 of the 14th Amendment would disqualify Trump in November if he



becomes the GOP nominee.

"We are disappointed by the Michigan Supreme Court's decision," said Ron Fein, legal director of Free Speech for People, the liberal group that filed the suit to disqualify Trump in the state. "The ruling conflicts with longstanding US Supreme Court precedent that makes clear that when political parties use the election machinery of the state to select, via the primary process, their candidates for the general election, they must comply with all constitutional requirements in that process?

Trump hailed the order, calling the effort to keep him off "pathetic gambit."

Only one of the court's seven justices dissented. Justice Elizabeth M. Welch, a Democrat, wrote that she would have kept Trump on the primary ballot but the court should rule on the merits of the Section 3 challenge. The court has a 4-3 Democratic majority. Trump pressed two election officials in Michigan's Wayne County not to certify 2020 vote totals, according to a recording of a post-election phone call disclosed in a Dec. 22 report by The Detroit News. The former president 's 2024 campaign has neither confirmed nor denied the record-

ing's legitimacy. Attorneys for Free Speech for People, a liberal nonprofit group also involved in efforts to keep Trump's name off the primary ballot in Minnesota and Oregon, had asked Michigan's Supreme Court to render its decision by Christmas Day.

Wild weather kills at least ten in Aus

Brisbane (Aus): Wild weather has left at least 10 people dead in the eastern Australian states of Queensland and Victoria, officials said on Wednesday. Three men, aged 48, 59 and 69, were killed after a boat with 11 people on board capsized in people on board capsized in rough weather in Moreton Bay off the south Queensland coast on Tuesday, police said. Ambulances took eight survivors to a hospital in stable conditions. The men were aboard the 39-foot pleasure craft on an annual fishing trip, The Courier Mail newspaper reported.

Queensland Police Acting Chief Superintendent Andrew Pilotto said those rescued were lucky to survive.

The storm was still raging when they were rescued," Pilotto said. "It would have been very difficult to survive in those conditions anywhere."

Elsewhere, a 59-year-old woman was killed by a falling tree in the Queensland city of Gold Coast on Monday night. The body of a 9-year-old girl was found on Tuesday in the neighbouring city of Brisbane hours after she disappeared in a flooded stormwater drain.

The bodies of a 40-year-old woman were found in the Mary River in the Queensland town of Gympie. They were among three women swept into the flooded river through a stormwater drain on Tuesday. Another 46-year-old woman managed to save herself.

Queensland Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll blamed "extraordinarily difficult weather" for the tragedies."It has been a very tragic 24 hours due to the weather," Carroll told reporters. Severe weather has lashed parts of southeast Australia since Monday including Queensland and Victoria. A woman, who is yet to be identified, was found dead late Tuesday after flash flooding receded at a campground in Buchan in regional Victoria. The body of an unidentified man, who had been camping with the woman, was found late Wednesday, police said.

Kim Jong boasts of achievements as he opens year-end political meeting

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un praised what he called achievements and victories that strengthened national power and boosted the country's prestige this year, as he opened a key political meeting to set new policy goals for 2024, state media reported on Wednesday. Experts said that during this week's year-end plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party, North Korea would likely hype its progress in arms development because the country lacks economic achievements amid persistent international sanctions and pandemic-related economic hardships.

In his opening-day speech at the meeting that began on Tuesday, Kim defined 2023 "as a year of great turn and great change both in name and reality, in which (North Korea) left a great trace in the glorious course of development in the efforts to improve the national power and enhance the prestige



of the country," according to the official Korean Central News Agency. KCNA said North Korea achieved a rapid advancement in its defence capabilities this year thanks to the launch of its first military spy satellite in November and the introduction of other sophisticated weapons. KCNA said North Korea

also reported a rare good harvest this year as the country finished building new irrigation facilities ahead of schedule and met major agricultural state objectives. It said that modern

streets, new houses and other buildings were built in Pyongyang and elsewhere across the country.

The Workers' Party meet-

ing, expected to last several days, will review state projects from this year and establish new objectives for next year. In recent years, North Korea has published the results of its meeting, including Kim's closing speech, in state media on January 1, allowing him to skip his New Year's Day address. The meeting comes after North Korea launched its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile, the solid-fuelled Hwasong-18, which is designed to strike the mainland US, into the sea last week. North Korea said the Hwasong-18 launch, the third of its kind this year, was meant to warn the US and South Korea over their confrontational moves against North Korea.

On November 21, North Korea put its first military spy satellite into orbit, though outside experts question whether

it can send militarily useful high-resolution imagery.

The launches of the

Hwasong-18 missile and the spy satellite were part of an ongoing run of weapons tests by North Korea since last year. Kim has maintained he was forced to expand his nuclear arsenal to cope with increasing hostilities from the US and its allies toward the North, but foreign experts say he eventually hopes to use an enlarged arsenal to win greater outside concessions when diplomacy resumes. Last Thursday, South Korean Defence Minister Shin Wonsik told lawmakers that North Korea appeared to be speeding up its weapons testing activities to highlight its achievements in defence sectors because it lacked major progress in the economy and public livelihoods.

In recent years, North Korea's fragile economy was severely battered by pandemicrelated curbs, US-led sanctions and the North's own misman-

Turkiye hits 70 sites linked to Kurdish groups in Syria

Ankara (Turkiye): Turkiye has hit more than 70 sites allegedly linked to Kurdish groups in Syria and northern Iraq during airstrikes launched this week in retaliation for the deaths of 12 Turkish soldiers in Iraq, the defense minister said Wednesday. At least 59 Kurdish militants were killed in the strikes as well as in land clashes, Yasar Guler said in a video message to top military officials which was posted on X, formerly Twitter.

"Our pain is great, but our determination is complete," Guler said. "We avenged (the deaths) of our precious children and we will continue to do

There was no immediately statement from Kurdish groups and the 59 deaths could

not be independently verified. On Friday, militants affiliated with the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, attempted to infiltrate a Turkish base in northern Iraq's semiautonomous Kurdish region, Turkish officials said. Six Turkish soldiers were killed in the ensuing firefight. The following day, six more Turkish with the Kurdish militants.

Turkiye responded by launching strikes against sites that officials said were associated with the PKK in Iraq and

A spokesman for the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said at least eight civilians were killed in the airstrikes in northeast Syria on Monday. The Syrian Öbservatory for Human Rights, a United Kingdom-based war monitor,

said 12 others were wounded. Turkiye insists it takes utmost care to avoid civilian casualties and harm to cultural heritage.The PKK, which maintains bases in northern Iraq, has led a decades-long insurgency in Turkiye and is considered a terror organization by Turkiye's Western allies including the US Tens of thousands of people have died since the start of the conflict in

US ambassador thanks Japan for allowing Patriot missile sale

AP ■ TOKYO

US Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel praised Japan's contribution to drastic "reform and modernization" of their alliance, particularly its military capability and spending, as well as a decision to allow Japanese-made Patriot guided missiles to be shipped to the United States to make up for its decreasing inventory. In a meeting with Japanese Defense Minister Minoru Kihara on Wednesday, Emanuel noted a series of steps Japan has taken to bolster its military power and the countries' alliance, saying it brings the "level of deterrence to capital D deterrence." In the latest move, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government on Friday eased its postwar ban on lethal weapons exports, a move seen as a major break from Japan's postwar selfdefense-only principle. It also approved a 16.5% increase in defense spending next year to a record 7.95 trillion-yen (\$56 billion) with a focus on missile strike and defense capabilities.

The revision to the arms transfer policy allows Japan to export weapons and components made in Japan under foreign licenses to the licensing nations. It's also a first major revision of Japan's arms export ban since an earlier easing on non-lethal weapons transfer in 2014. Kishida's government is currently in the process of further easing the policy to and some opposition lawmak-

allow sale to third countries of jointly developed lethal weapons, like a next-generation fighter jet Japan is co-developing with Britain and Italy. Japan on Friday quickly

approved a U.S. request for shipment of surface-to-air Patriot guided missiles produced in Japan under an American license to complement U.S. inventory, prompting speculation they may be sent to Ukraine.

Kihara said Tuesday the two sides were still discussing details as officials need to carefully make production and shipment plans so "this will not make a hole in the defense of

Pacifist groups, academics

ers in Japan have questioned why Tokyo is selling the Patriot missiles. Critics say it also needs to fortify its missile strike and defense capabilities to be able to cope with an increasingly assertive China.

Kihara said the Patriot shipment is intended to showcase the will and capability of the Japan-U.S. military alliance and to ensure the peace and stability of Japan. It also shows Japan does not tolerate any attempts to change the status quo of international order, he

Emanuel described Japan's revision to the military equipment sale policy as "a capstone to a year of reform." He said it will result in a greater inventory for the United States as well

S Korean actor Lee Sun-kyun found dead

ee Sun-kyun, a popular Lee Sun-Kyun, a por Les South Korean actor best known for his role in the Oscar-winning "Parasite," was found dead in a car in Seoul on Wednesday, authorities said, after weeks of an intense police investigation into his alleged drug use.

Police and emergency officers initially found Lee in what they believed was an unconscious state in the car parked on a street in northern Seoul. Emergency officers later confirmed he was dead, according to Seoul's Seongbuk police sta-

Police had been searching for Lee, 48, after receiving a report that he was missing, Seongbuk police said.

They refused to provide further details including whether they had determined Lee killed himself. But South



Yonhap news agency said that Lee's family earlier Wednesday reported to police that he left home after writing a message similar to a suicide note. Lee's body was later transported to a nearby Seoul hospital, according to Seongbuk police.

Lee appeared in "Parasite," which won Oscars for best

gories in 2020. The class satire was the first non-English-language film to win best picture in the then-92-year history of the Academy Awards, and was the first South Korean movie ever to win an Oscar. In the film, Lee played the head of a wealthy family.

In 2021, he won a Screen

Actors Guild award for "cast in a motion picture" for his role in the same film. He was nominated for best actor at the International Emmy Awards for his performance in the scifi thriller "Dr Brain" last year, as well. Even before "Parasite," Lee had been a popular actor in South Korea for a long time. He rose to stardom for his role in a hit TV drama series, "Coffee Prince (2007)," and gained mainstream popularity with the medical drama "Behind The White Tower (2007)," "Pasta (2010)" and "My Mister (2018)." Lee had undergone police

probes into allegations that he used illegal drugs at the residence of a bar hostess. The investigation prompted extensive tabloid coverage. Lee insisted he was tricked into taking the drugs and that he did not know what he was taking, according to Yonhap.

Eiffel Tower closed while workers strike on 100th death anniv of its founder

Paris: The Eiffel Tower was shut down to visitors Wednesday because of a strike over contract negotiations, the day the Paris monument marks 100 years since the death of its creator, Gustave Eiffel. Tourists can still access the glass-enclosed esplanade beneath the tower, but access to the 300-metre (984-foot) landmark itself is closed until further notice, according to an Eiffel Tower spokesperson.

The strike was declared ahead of contract negotiations with the city of Paris, which owns the 134-year-old monument, the spokesperson said. Union representatives did not immediately respond for comment, and it was unclear how long the strike would last.

One of the world's mostvisited sites, the Eiffel Tower is typically open 365 days a year though it sees occasional strikes — and is expected to play a central role in the 2024 Paris Olympics. The attraction normally sees about 20,000 visitors per day this time of year, said the spokesperson, who was not authorised to be publicly named according to tower management policy.
A special music show

marking the death of Gustave Eiffel on Dec 27, 1923, was still scheduled to air on social networks and French television Wednesday night because it was prerecorded, spokesperson said.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY

MARINE DEPARTMENT

No. MD/ACCTS/WK/R-17/2023-1592 Date: 22 12.2023 e-Tender Call Notice (e-TCN)

Name of the work: Providing Assistance for Berthing / Un-berthing of Vessels and other Marine Operations at Paradip Port Authority for a period of 03 years. Estimated cost: Rs.2,93,68,070/-. Last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is 17:00 Hours on dt. 15/01/2024. For further details, please log on the the Website:

https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Sd/- Deputy Conservator, Paradip Port Authority PPA/PR/72/2023-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that my client Smt. Kavita Aggarwa wife of Sh.Sanjay Aggarwal resident of A-402, Plot no 14, Dream Apartment, Dwarka Sector-22, New Delhi wite of sinsal play against included in Charlos, 1 Annual 14, Dream Apartment, Dwarka Sector-22, New Delhi110075 has lost /misplaced the page no. 8 of the Sale Deed dated 7th Jan. 2019 registered as Wasika no.
14791 in Book no. 1, Vol no 18, at page 69 alongwith
additional book no. 1 Volume no 493 pages no. 88-90
registered on 7/01/2019 for the property i.e. Residential
Piot bearing no.5. on Road no. H-1 measuring 250
Sq. mts. situated in the residential colony known as DLF
Qutab Enclave Complex, Phase I, situated at Village
Skandarpur Ghosi, Tehsi and Distt. Gurgoon Haryana.
The same is not traceable despite the best efforts of my
client. A FIR /NCR to this has been lodged in the Police
Station on 27/12/2023 to this effect. Any person(s)
claiming any rights, interest having any objection or
found in possession of original documents may
write/contact with above named person at above
address within 15 days from the date of publication of
this notice.
SUDHA SHUKLA (Advocate)

titice. SUDHA SHUKLA (Advocate) 28-B, MIG, Pocket VI, Mayur Vihar, Phase III, Delhi-110 096



Doon University, Dehradun invites separate e-tender for the procurement of water isotope analyzer for Doon University. The ender documents are available or Uttarakhand government e-portal www.uktenders.gov.in Interested ns may apply through e-tender. Store & Purchase Officer

Public Notice

Public Notice

This is to Inform the general public that Sh. Rajinder Gautam is the unequivocal owner of SFS Duplex Flat Bearing No. 60-C on First & Second Toor, Category-Ill, in Block-H, Situated at DDA SFS Flats Saket, New Delhi. This legal ownership was established through a Relinquishment Deed tated 09.02.2022vide doc. No. 458executed by Sh. Abhinshe Gautam. Sh. Abhishe Gautam.

3h. Rajinder Gautam intends to transfer the sornership by way of Sale Deed of the storementioned Rafatt Rahma, the Notice of States of

Sensex scales 72k peak for first time

Sensex and Nifty soared to fresh closing record highs on Wednesday, with the 30-share benchmark index crossing the historic 72,000 mark, boosted by optimism over the country's macroeconomic fundamentals and firm global market trends. Reflecting broader investor bullishness. the 50-share index surged to a record high of 21,654.75 on intense buying in metal, commodity, auto and banking

Rising for the fourth straight session, the BSE gauge jumped 701.63 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at its all-time closing high of 72,038.43. During the day, it zoomed 783.05 points or 1.09 per cent to reach its intra-day lifetime high of 72,119.85.

The Nifty climbed 213.40 points or 1 per cent to settle at a record high of 21,654.75. During the day, it rallied 234.4 points or 1.09 per cent to reach its all-time intra-day peak of 21,675.75. "The upbeat domestic market continued reaching a new record high and easily recovered the last week's losses. This upward trend was predominantly supported by the Santa Claus rally in anticipation of early rate cuts by the US Fed and cooling global inflation," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at

Geojit Financial Services. UltraTech Cement was the biggest gainer on the Sensex chart, rising 4.23



per cent, followed by JSW Steel, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, Infosys and Bajaj Finserv were the major gainers. On the other hand, NTPC and Tech Mahindra were the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.41 per cent, and smallcap index advanced 0.20 per

Among the indices, metal jumped 1.33 per cent, auto climbed 1.33 per cent, commodities (1.19 per cent), teck (0.96 per cent), ÎT (0.68 per cent), consumer durables (0.67 per cent) and capital goods (0.67 per cent). Utilities, power and services were the

laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled with gains. European markets were mostly trading in positive territory. The US markets ended in the green on Tuesday. "After a brief midweek panic last week, bulls are back with a bang, albeit with some caution. India VIX has touched a new high in a multi-month time frame, indicating the possibility of some volatility as we approach the monthly expiry.

NSE Nifty

21,441.35

"FII's have been buyers in the last couple of sessions in Index options while they continue to stay long in the index futures segment. Banks have been a bit late to this party but now seem ready to break out from the current range. PSU Banks are the strongest while private banks are expected to play catch up," Rahul Sharma Director, Technical & Derivative Research, IM Financial Services, said. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.21 per cent to USD 80.90 a

TOP GAINERS

3.79 Bajaj Auto

2.97 Tata Motors

277 JSW Steel

LOSERS

NTPC

-0.87 ONGC

-077 Adani Enterpris

Adani Ports

UltraTech Cement

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 95.20 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

"21,800 on the Nifty and 49,000 on the Nifty Bank seems likely tomorrow," Sharma said.

The BSE benchmark climbed 229.84 points or 0.32 per cent to settle at 1,336.80 on Tuesday. The Nifty advanced 91.95 points or 0.43 per cent

Broad base fundraising, reduce dependence on banks: RBI to NBFCs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday asked nonbank finance companies to broad-base their fundraising to limit reliance on banks as it called for strengthening balance sheets and guarding against frauds and data breaches.

According to the report 'Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2022-23' released by the RBI, the Indian banking system and NBFCs remain sound and resilient, backed by high capital ratios, strengthening asset quality and robust earnings growth

The consolidated balance sheet of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) in 2022-23 expanded by 12.2 per cent, driven by credit to retail and services sectors. Deposit growth also picked up, although it trailed credit growth, it said. Looking ahead, it said, "Given the increasing interconnectedness between banks and NBFCs, the latter should focus on broadbasing their funding sources and

reduce overdependence on bank funding. Banks and nonbanks both, need to bring in greater empathy in their customer services".

The concerted efforts are needed by all stakeholders to protect the banking and payments system from the risks of fraud and data breaches emanating from

cyber threats, the report added. Overall, banks and NBFCs need to further strengthen their balance sheets through robust governance and risk management practices to meet the growing aspirations of the

Indian economy," it said. As per the report, the improvement in asset quality of banks that began in 2018-19 continued during 2022-23, and even in the first half (April-September) of 2023-24, the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio stood at 3.2 per

Higher net interest income and lower provisioning boosted net interest margin (NIM) and profitability in 2022-23, it

FICICI PRUDENTIAL LIFE INSURANC

ICICI Prudential Life gets GST demand notice of ₹270 crore

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance on Wednesday said tax authorities have slapped a demand notice of Rs 270 crore on it for alleged short payment of GST for 2017-18.

The Maharashtra Goods and Service Tax (GST) authority has demanded GST along with applicable interest and penalty for 2017-18 fiscal for reversal of input tax credit; difference in GST liability filed in GSTR-1 and GSTR-9; mismatch in ITC claimed in GSTR-3B and GSTR-2A; and interest on GST payment on proposal deposit.

The total demand of Rs 269.86 crore includes GST of Rs 119.56 crore, interest of Rs 138.34 crore, and penalty of Rs 11.95 crore. "The company shall file an appeal against the said order before the Commissioner (Appeals) within the prescribed timelines," ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company said in a

Shares of ICICI Prudential set-

tled at Rs 526.55 apiece, up 0.56 per cent over previous close on

In a separate filing, ICICI Lombard General Insurance said it has received a demand notice for alleged short payment of GST of over Rs 5.66 crore from Madhya Pradesh state GST department.

In a regulatory filing, ICICI Lombard General Insurance said the GST demand of Rs 5,66,02,264 and penalty of Rs to Rs 6.22 crore. Also, an interest under Section 50 of the GST Act would be levied.

'The company will be filing an appeal against the said order," ICICI Lombard said.

The GST demand has been raised on the grounds of computation of input tax credit eligible to the company and alleged undischarged tax liability due to differences between returns filed by the company, it added. Shares of ICICI Lombard closed

at Rs 1,411.25 apiece, down 0.35 per cent on the BSE.

P-Note investments surge to ₹1.31 lakh crore in November July 2017 — when investment value of P-note investments in

Change (+213.40

21,654.75

nvestments through participa-Itory notes in the Indian capital markets jumped to Rs 1.31 lakh crore by the end of November, bouncing back from a decline in the previous month, owing to the robust performance of the domestic market. Before registering a decline in October, investments through P-notes have been increasing continuously since March, following the stable Indian economy against an uncertain global macro backdrop.
The latest data includes the

value of participatory note investments in Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities. Participatory notes (P-notes)

are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to



overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering them-selves directly. They, however,

need to go through a due diligence process. According to the latest data from markets regulator Sebi, the

Indian markets — equity, debt, and hybrid securities — stood at Rs 1,31,664 crore at the end of November compared to Rs 1,26,320 crore at the end of

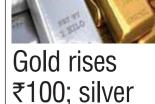
The growth in P-notes generally aligns with the trend in FPI flows. When there is a global risk to the environment, investment through this route increases, and

Experts said that the decline in US treasury bond yields could have prompted FPIs to turn their focus back to the Indian market for better returns, besides, listing of IPOs would have also brought foreign investors back. Investment through the route rose to a six-year high of Rs 1,33,284 crore at September-end. This was the highest level since through the route stood at Rs 1.35 lakh crore. In comparison, investment

lakh crore in August, Rs 1.28 lakh crore in July, Rs 1.13 lakh crore in July, Rs 1.14 lakh crore at May-end, Rs 95,911 crore at April-end, Rs 88,600 crore at March-end, Rs 88,398 crore at February-end and Rs 91,469 crore at January-end.

Of the total Rs 1.31 lakh crore invested through this route till October, Rs 1.23 lakh crore was invested in equities, Rs 8,207 crore in debt, and Rs 392 crore in hybrid securities. In addition, the assets under cus-

tody of FPIs rose to Rs 60.8 lakh crore by the end of November up from Rs 56.8 lakh crore in the previous month.



plunges ₹350

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose Rs 100 to Rs 63,850 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid a bullish trend in the global markets, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous close, the precious metal had closed at Rs

63,750 per 10 grams. However, silver plunged Rs 350 to Rs 79,100 per kilogram, while it had finished at Rs 79,450 per kg in the previous trade.

Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said gold prices edged higher on Wednesday, in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 63,850/10 grams, up by Rs 100 following a bullish trend in the overseas markets. In the futures trade on the MCX, the February contract of gold jumped Rs 334 Also, the March contract of silver bounced Rs 109 to Rs 75,135

gold was trading higher at USD 2,067 per ounce, while silver was down at USD 24.15 per ounce. "Gold prices continue to inch higher, as soft inflation data fuelled more bets on early interest rate cuts in 2024 and weighed on the dollar index and US treasury yields," Navneet Damani, senior vice-president of commodity research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

Suzlon bags two wind energy orders

Renewables solutions provider Suzlon has bagged two separate wind energy orders of 100.8 MW each from Mahindra Susten and an Indian arm of a leading nordic energy company. Suzlon will install 48 units of their S120

with a Hybrid Lattice tubular (HLT) tower and a rated capacity of 2.1 MW each in Maharashtra for Mahindra Susten Pvt Ltd, the clean-teach arm of the Mahindra Group, a company statement

'We are delighted to partner with Mahindra Susten, for their first wind energy project. Indian conglomerates like the Mahindra Group are setting examples for corporate India towards embracing renewable energy and meeting India's national sustainability goals," said Girish Tanti, Vice Chairman, Suzlon Group said. According to a statement, Suzlon will execute the project with a full scope of sup-



ply, installation, and commissioning. Additionally, Suzlon will also undertake post-commissioning operation and maintenance services.

Electricity generated from the project will be supplied to Commercial and Industrial (C&I) customers in Maharashtra.

"We look forward to creating many landmark IPP renewable energy projects in the future with a focus on increasing adoption of renewable energy in India," said Deepak Thakur, Managing Director and CEO, Mahindra Susten.

Moreover, Suzlon will install 32 wind tur-

bine generators (WTGs) with a Hybrid Lattice Tubular (HLT) tower and a rated capacity of 3.15 MW each for an Indian arm of a leading nordic energy compa-

The project is located at Karnataka. As part of the agreement, the Suzlon will supply the wind turbines (equipment supcommissioning. Suzlon will also undertake comprehensive operations and maintenance services post-commission-

A project of this size can provide electricity to 77 thousand households and curb around 3.02 lakh tonnes of CO2 emissions every year, it said.

We are delighted to partner again with the leading Nordic Energy Company. As India's renewable energy ambition sets benchmarks across the world, we are honored to welcome reputed global companies to the Indian market and stand committed to partnering with them every step of the way," Tanti said.

per kilogram on the bourse. In the international markets

Majority prefer banks to park savings, 21 per cent in gold: Survey

 Γ he affinity of Indians for gold and traditional bank deposits remain unwavering as about 77 per cent of respondents preferred to safeguard their earnings through bank deposits and 21 per cent choose to invest in gold in 2023, according to a

The Money9 annual personal finance pulse survey indicated a positive trend in insurance penetration, with over 27 per cent of households holding life insurance policies in 2023, higher



from 19 per cent in the 2022 survey. However, a 53 per cent of households still lack health insurance coverage, according to the survey, which is based on responses from over 35,000 households across 20 states. It further said that India's burgeoning stock market is gradually making its way into the pockets of investors, with the percentage of stock market investors surging from a mere 3 per cent to 9 per cent compared to the previous year.

Additionally, 10 per cent of Indian families have now

embraced mutual fund investments, up from 6 per cent in The survey also showed that

regional variations persist, with southern Indian cities such as Bengaluru (69 per cent) and Thiruvananthapuram (66 per cent) leading in gold savings. In terms of insurance penetration, Madurai (84 per cent) claims the top spot, followed closely by Amravati (79 per cent) and Aurangabad (76 per cent). Also, the percentage of Indian households affording a luxurious lifestyle has increased from 3 per cent in 2022 to 5 per cent in 2023.

While luxury remains concentrated primarily in metro cities, these findings underscore India's relentless pursuit of progress, the survey added.

Companies raise nearly ₹9,000 crore in December IPO rush

PTI MUMBAI

As many as 12 companies Praised Rs 8,931.69 crore through initial share sales this month, making it the best IPO month in two years.

The previous best was December 2021, when 11 companies mopped up Rs 9,534 crore through Initial Public Offerings (IPOs).

As per an analysis, 12 companies hit the market with their IPOs in December 2023.

This week, six companies got listed after their IPOs and one company will start trading on Thursday. Reflecting the bullishness in the primary market, three firms each made their stock market debut on Tuesday and Wednesday.
While Muthoot Microfin,

Motisons Jewellers and Suraj Estate Developers got listed on Tuesday, Credo Brands, Happy Forgings and RBZ Jewellers made their debuts on Wednesday.

ing on Thursday.

Earlier this month, Doms Industries, Flair, India Shelter Finance and Inox CVA listed on the bourses, while Azad Engineering is set to start trad-The listing date of Innova



crore through an IPO, is yet to be announced.

Through the IPO, Doms Industries raised Rs 1,200 crore while Flair garnered Rs 593 crore and India Shelter Finance fetched Rs 1,200 crore. Inox CVA mopped up Rs 1,459.32 crore and Muthoot Microfin's initial share sale was worth Rs 960 crore.

Jewellers raised Rs 151 crore, Suraj Estate Developers (Rs 400 crore), Credo Brands (Rs 549.77 crore), Happy Forgings (Rs 1,008.6 crore), RBZ Jewellers (Rs 100 crore) and Azad Engineering (Rs 740 Together, these 12 firms have

mopped up Rs 8,931.69 crore, as per the analysis.

Rupee falls 16 paise to 83.35 against US dollar **PTI** MUMBAI rency settled at 83.19 against the dollar. Anuj Choudhary, end dollar demand from oil **RUPEE VS DOLLAR** marketing companies and

The rupee declined 16 paise To settle at 83.35 (provisional) against the US dollar on

Wednesday due to sustained outflow of foreign funds and increased demand for American currency from importers and banks. According to forex traders, a robust buying trend in the

domestic equity market failed

to boost sentiment as investors

remained concerned over

volatile crude oil prices fearing disruption in global trade through the Red Sea route. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic currency opened at 83.21 and traded

between the peak of 83.20 and the lowest level of 83.35 against dollar during intra-day deals. The local unit finally settled at 83.35 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a fall of paise from its previous

On Tuesday, the domestic cur-



Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said Indian rupee depreciated on dollar demand from foreign banks and importers. "FII outflows also weighed on

the rupee. However, positive domestic markets and the weak tone in the US dollar cushioned the downside," he said but added that the rupee is expected to trade with a slight negative bias on month-

'USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83 to Rs 83.70," he said. Meanwhile, the dollar index,

importers.

which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading marginally lower at 101.07 on Wednesday. Global oil price benchmark Brent crude slipped 0.16 per cent to USD 80.94 per barrel.

Dipa to participate in senior nationals after 8 years

tar gymnast Dipa Karma-Skar will compete at the Senior Artistic Gymnastics National Championships after a gap of eight years in Bhubanes war next week

The prestigious event will be held here from January 2 to 4. Besides Dipa, the championship will feature the likes of Tokyo Olympian Pranati Nayak, Yogeshwar Singh, Rakesh Patra, Tapan Mohanty, Saif Tamboli, Gaurav Kumar among others. "Dipa will compete at the Senior nationals. The last time she had participated at the domestic event was in 2015. This will be here last nationals," her coach Bisweswar Nandi told PTI.

The 30-year-old from Agartala, the first female gymnast from India to compete in the Olympics, was ignored for the Asian Games despite topping the trials as she didn't meet SAI's selection criteria of players needing to score equivalent to the eighth ranked gymnast in the last Asian Games.

It was since then she couldn't participate in any event following her 21-month suspension due to a doping violation.

Nandi, however, hasn't given up hope on his ward's chances of qualifying for the Paris Olympics. Dipa is recovering from a nagging knee issue for quite some time now. "She is gradually reaching her 100 per cent and will compete in few international events next year. Of course, she will have to do well



in the selection trials to be in the Indian team," Nandi said. Odisha is all geared up to host the Junior and Senior Artistic Gymnastics National Cham-

pionships at the Gymnastics

Centre in the Kalinga Stadium.

begin on Thursday, followed by the Senior Championship from January 2. A total of 750 participants, including 550 players, 120 support staff and 100 officials from across the country, are expected descend on the state for The Junior Championship will the championship which will see

the participation of 28 affiliated units from the Gymnastics Federation of India.

Sudhir Mital, President, Gymnastics Federation of India, said: "We are pleased to host the Junior and Senior Artistic Gymnastics National Championship here in Bhubaneswar which has the best of infrastructure and facilities to conduct a National Championship.

"This championship will give the entire junior and senior participants experience of showcasing their skills at world class venue."

Naomi hits practice court

To prepare for her tennis return at the Brisbane International



AP BRISBANE

 $F^{\text{ormer No. 1}}_{\text{Naomi Osaka hit the practice}}$ court Wednesday ahead of the Brisbane International as she prepared for her much anticipat-

ed return to tennis.
Osaka will make her WTA comeback at the tournament which begins Sunday at Pat Rafter Arena. A two-time Australian and U.S. Open champion, Osaka pulled out of last year's Australian Open in Melbourne before later revealing she was pregnant.

The U.S.-based Japanese player and her American rapper boyfriend Cordae became parents to daughter Shai in Los

Angeles in July. Osaka has only played one game since the 2021 U.S. Open in New York. She was leading Daria Gavrilova 1-0 at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo in September 2021, before the Australian suffered a serious knee injury and had to retire in the match.

Rafael Nadal is also set to return from injury in Brisbane in a 32man ATP field so strong that Wimbledon finalist Matteo Berrettini and 2020 U.S. Open champion Dominic Thiem will have to qualify to feature in it.

Open final in 2020 and Berrettini was a semifinalist two years later. Both are currently sitting outside the top-60 cutoff mark which received automatic entry into the season-

opening event. Holger Rune, at No. 8, is the highest-ranked male in the tournament. American Ben Shelton and three-time Grand Slam singles champion Andy Murray are also entered. Reigning Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka, Elena Rybakina, Jelena Ostapenko, Victoria Azarenka, Sofia Kenin and Sloane Stephens are in the 54-player women's draw.

AP MANCHESTER

Welcome to Manchester United, Jim Ratcliffe. In the space of 90 minutes, and

in front of soon-to-be director Dave Brailsford, Old Trafford witnessed the best and worst of Erik ten Hag's team.

Two days after confirmation that British billionaire Ratcliffe will buy a stake of up to 25% in the club, United trailed by two goals inside 26 minutes against Aston Villa and was booed by the home crowd on Tuesday. Ten Hag's players then produced a spectacular second-half come-back to win 3-2 and spark celebrations rarely seen at its famed stadium during a troubled sea-

"We said Keep going. Believe it, in ourselves." That is what I demand from the team," Ten Hag said afterward. "We said it halftime, Keep believing and we will win this game."

Going into the game on the back of a run of four matches in all competitions without a win or a goal, United took to the field for the first time since Ratcliffe, one of Britain's richest people, secured an agreement worth around \$1.6 billion to buy into the club he has supported from childhood.

Brailsford is the director of sport for INEOS Sport, which Ratcliffe owns, and on Tuesday it was confirmed he will be a director of United once the deal is completed

He got a taste of the sense of frustration among the 20-time league champions fans — with

Despair then delight at Old Trafford

2013 — and the animosity toward American owners the Glazer family, who put the club

soccer operations as part of his investment and Brailsford is expected to play a big part in a new structure.

While it will take more than one win to turn a season around that has already seen United eliminated from the Champions League and the English League Cup, the atmosphere in the second half was a taste of what can be achieved by bringing the good times back to Old Trafford. "We're looking forward. I think

they are stepping in. They have a lot of experience in sport at the highest level - F1, a cycling team, football clubs," Ten Hag said. "They can only help us and support us to get our targets. We are looking forward. They want to work with us and we want to work with them.'

Villa went ahead through firsthalf goals from John McGinn and Leander Dendoncker. Alejandro Garnacho sparked United's revival with two goals in the second half and Rasmus Hojlund scored his first league goal to win the game. Third-place Villa had been

unbeaten in 10 games going into the match.

United last winning the title in up for sale last year. Ratcliffe will take charge of



we were contenders to the title and said no, and was thinking the same as I am now," Villa manager Unai Emery said. Today we missed an opportunity to have that consistency "Two weeks ago I was asked if against one of the top ten teams.

This can happen." United moved up to sixth place,

three points behind defending champion Manchester City in fifth. City has played two fewer

games than United.
LIVERPOOL LEADS: Liver-

pool is back at the top of the league and Darwin Nunez is

again among the goals. Nunez ended a 12-game scoring drought to set up Jurgen Klopp's team for a 2-0 win against Burnley and overtake

Arsenal in the standings.

Liverpool moved two points clear of second-place Arsenal, which has a game in hand against West Ham on Thursday. Nunez curled a shot from dis-

tance beyond Burnley goal-

sixth minute at Turf Moor, having failed to find the back of the net for his club since Nov. 1. Having drawn back-to-back league games against Manches-ter United and Arsenal, Liverpool failed to make the most of its dominance as it saw two goals disallowed and Mohamed Salah hit the bar. Substitute Diogo Jota eventually ended any concerns of a Burnley equalizer with a goal in

keeper James Trafford in the

"We've created a lot of chances recently and haven't used an awful lot of them but in the end it's about performing," Liverpool manager Klopp said. "We've played four games in 10 days nd vou iust k ave to get through

WOOD'S HAT TRICK: Chris Wood came back to haunt Newcastle and hand Nuno Espírito Santo his first win as Nottingham Forest manager. Wood, who joined Newcastle in January 2022 and was sold to Forest 18 months later, struck a hat trick in his team's 3-1 win in the Premier League at St. James' Park on Tuesday.

"I'm just happy to stick them away. That's what I'm here to do and I'm just happy I could," the striker said.

Wood was one of Newcastle's first signings after the club was bought by Šaudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund in 2021. He moved from Burnley for around

\$32 million, but was loaned to Forest 12 months later after scoring five goals in 39 appear-

He completed a permanent move to Forest in June this year in a deal worth \$19 million. Newcastle has now lost five of its last seven games in all competitions and has only had one win in the league during that

It was Nuno's second game in charge at Forest after replacing former manager Steve Cooper

before Christmas.
Newcastle took the lead through
Alexander Isak's first-half penalty, but Wood evened the score just before halftime. He went on to score two goals and complete

his hat trick after the break.

LUTON DOUBLE: Back-toback wins for Luton have boosted the relegation-fighting club's chances of survival. But Rob Edwards' team had United to thank for the 3-2 win at Bramall Lane after the bottom-place team scored two own-goals in the space of four

minutes.
Jack Robinson and Anis Ben Slimane put through their own net in the 77th and 81st minutes to hand 18th-place Luton the win that moved it to within a point of Everton in 17th.

Alfie Doughty had given Luton a first-half lead in the 17th. Oliver McBurnie leveled in the 61st and Anel Ahmedhodzic put Sheffield United 2-1 up in the 69th. But the own-goals turned the game around as Luton followed up its 1-0 victory over Newcastle with another win.

Alexia will undergo knee surgery

AP ■ BARCELONA

Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas will undergo knee surgery on Wednesday. The Barcelona women's star will have "an arthroscopy on her left knee," her club said Tuesday, adding it will make "an official medical announcement once the operation has concluded." Putellas was part of Spain's World Cup-winning squad ear-

lier this year.
The 29-year-old midfielder missed the entire 2022 European Championship after injuring her knee in training. The Spanish soccer federation said Putellas tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee.

'Morris target of racist comment'

An alleged racist comment was made by a fan toward Luton player Carlton Morris during his team's Premier League match against Sheffield United. Luton manager Rob Edwards said the police had talked to Morris after the game at Bramall Lane, which Luton won 3-2.



"There was an alleged racist comment, the police are dealing with that, they have spoken to Carlton and got his take on it, so it is with them now, I have no more comment on it," the Luton manager said. "He is alright - he was, at the time, pretty angry but he seems fine now.

Morris came on as a 71st-minute substitute and created two chances that led to own-goals in his team's win. The match was the first in the Premier League in 15 years to be officiated by a black referee. Sam Allison took charge of

He spoke to both managers following the incident, Sheffield United boss Chris Wilder said.

"There was a comment that was made and the referee came over to speak to me and Rob from a racial point of view, which is obviously not great if found to be the case," he said.

Mayank to lead Karnataka in Ranji Trophy

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Experienced opener Mayank Agarwal was on Wednesday named as Karnataka captain for the first two matches of the upcoming Ranji Trophy season. The promising young batsman Nikin Jose has been appointed as

Agarwal's deputy. However, KL Rahul has not been named in the 16-man squad considering India's upcoming assignments at home against Afghanistan (three T20Is) and England (five Tests) across January

and February. Agarwal had a big 2022-23 domestic season emerging as the top rungetter in the circuit with 990 runs from nine matches at average of



82.50 that contained three hundreds and six fifties.

Karnataka will open their Ranji campaign against Punjab at Hubli from January 5-8 and in their sec-ond match, the former champions will face Gujarat in Ahmedabad from January 12-15.

Former batsman PV Shashikanth has been retained as the coach of the side.

Karnataka squad: Mayank Agarwal (c), Ravikumar Samarth, Devdutt Padikkal, Nikin Jose (vc), Manish Pandey, Shubhang Hegde, Sharath Srinivas (wk), Vysakh Vijayakumar, Vasuki Koushik, Vidwath Kaverappa, K Shashikumar, Sujay Sateri (wk), D Nischal, M Venkatesh, Kishan S Bedare, AC Rohit Kumar.



Marathon ambassador

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Two-time pole vault world champion and Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Katie Moon has been roped in as event ambassador for the 19th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon to be held on Sunday.

Promoted by Procam International, the Mumbai Marathon is a World Athletics Gold Label Race. Moon had clinched gold medal at the 2022 Eugene and 2023 Budapest World Athletics Championships.

"While running the race of life, every step is an opportunity to inspire and make a difference. I am deeply honoured to be named the International Event Ambassador for Tata Mumbai Marathon 2024, where each stride carries the spirit of resilience, determination, and community," said the 32-yearold American who will be defending her title in the 2024 Paris Olympics.
"I look forward to inspiring and being inspired by the incredible

participants as we come together to celebrate the power of human potential and the pursuit of excellence. Let's lace up Mumbai, and run towards a healthier, and happier future!" she said in a release.

ELGAR OVERSHADOWS RAHUL

PTI ■ CENTURION

L Rahul's superlative century was neutralised by a brilliant counter-offensive ton from the soon-to-be retired Dean Elgar as South Africa looked on course for a Africa looked on course for a first innings lead, reaching 194 for 3 at tea on the second day of the opening Test against India here Wednesday

It was Rahul's 101 off just 137 balls which propelled India to a first innings score of 245 on a track that offered variable bounce.

But the left-handed Elgar was way more attacking against a wayward Indian attack whose third and fourth pacers were rendered completely ineffective on a good bowling track.

Playing his penultimate Test match, Elgar nicely blended defence with a plethora of pulls and tucks off his legs as his 115 not out off 168 balls, took the Proteas to 51 runs within India's first innings total.

Jasprit Bumrah (2/35 in 11 overs) bowled a couple of wicket-taking deliveries to pull India briefly back into the contest.

Bumrah and his seasoned newball colleague Mohammed Siraj (1/39 in 10 overs) did test the home batters but unfortunately Shardul Thakur (0/47 in 10 overs) looked insipid and debutant Prasidh Krishna (0/51 in 10 overs) was very erratic, leaking way too many runs.

Cricket Australia is looking to increase "marquee" women's Test series at

home against India and

England to three matches

from the current one-off

contest, according to its Chief executive Nick

The CA top official said the governing body will "keep advocating for more Test cricket" in the women's

game. Hockley's comments came

after captain Alyssa Healy

felt a sense of unfinished

India in Mumbai last week.

Playing their first Test in

India since 1984, Australia

were beaten by eight wickets

in the one-off contest at the

"We'll_keep advocating for

more Test cricket as part of

multi-format series," he told

"Maybe that's something in

the future that we can think

about key marquee series

Marquee series for Australia

would be against England

and India-only, with New

Zealand reluctant to sched-

ule women's Tests, according

The loss in Mumbai was

Australia's first against India

in 11 Tests, with Healy say-

ing she would love to be

involved in more red-ball

going to three Tests."

to cricket.Com.Au.

Wankhede Stadium.

following

Hockley.

business

CA looking at

three-match Test

series against India



Such was their profligacy that in South Africa's first 100 runs, 18 were boundaries.

The Gujarat slinger ended the 93-run second wicket stand by bowling a perfect off-cutter to southpaw Tony de Zorzi (28 off 62 balls), which pitched on length and moved enough to take a thick outside edge into the hands of Yashasvi Jaiswal at third

Keegan Petersen (2), India's nemesis during the previous tour, lasted only seven deliveries, as he lazily played away from his body and dragged a slightly back of the length delivery coming in with the angle onto his

However, the dismissals didn't deter Elgar, who hit as many as 21 boundaries and was quick to cut and pull whenever any-

 $S_{ ext{turn for the better when}}^{ ext{hubam Dubey's life took a}}$

"My family couldn't afford to buy

a cricket kit but my father still got

me one. But they never forced

Pakistan started strongly then

collapsed to reach 194 for six

at stumps in reply to Australia's first-innings total of 318 at the

Melbourne Cricket Ground.

eventful second day's play.

A total of 13 wickets fell in an

Cummins claimed three for 37

and off-spinner Nathan Lyon

took two for 48 for Australia.

Abdullah Shafique (62) and

skipper Shan Masood (54)

both made half-centuries,

sharing a 90-run partnership

thing short came his way. While Thakur drifted on Elgar's pads, Prasidh, who had not so memorable half-century to his name, either bowled too full or

too short.

Prasidh was imperiously pulled for a six by the South African debutant David Bedingham (32 batting) in an unbroken stand of

Bedingham also handed the

Shubam wants to buy house

after ₹5.60 crore deal with RR

same treatment to Thakur as Indian shoulders drooped with passage of time.

Rahul's best Test knock

In the morning, Rahul scored one of his most satisfying hundreds in extremely difficult batting conditions to take India to an above-par first innings score. Starting the day unbeaten on 70. Rahul made a brilliant hundred

manager to getting into real estate," Dubey said in a Royals

Now, Dubey wanted to buy a

"I've found my biggest support-

ers in my family. My twin broth-

er took care of the house finan-

cially without letting the pressure

affect me, my parents were right

behind me. When I was injured

and out of action for a while,

they kept me in a positive state

"I want to give them the comfort

and happiness they deserve. So, I wish to first buy a house for the family," added Dubey.

media release.

of mind.

house for his family.

and the innings could well be considered on par with some of the best knocks played by Indians in SENA countries if the degree of difficulty is taken into account. No Test batter from any other country has been able to score two Test hundreds at the Supersport Park and Rahul now holds that unique record.
His innings had 14 boundaries

and four sixes as he most of the time decided to ride the bounce rather than get on top of it en route his eighth Test ton.

As someone, who was dropped earlier this year during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in India on account of poor form, this was some comeback for Rahul where he was literally the lone ranger. Consistency has been the prob-

lem for the Bengaluru man but class has never been an issue as his range is as good as a Virat Kohli or a Rohit Sharma.

The ramp shot off Kagiso Rabada (5/59 in 20 overs) was pure class while a quick bye run stolen off Gerald Coetzee to prevent a genuine No. 11 Prasidh from facing more of the fast bowler was pragmatic.

Rahul got into the 90s with a smashing six as he picked Rabada's length very early and dispatched him into square leg grass embankments.

The hundred came when he slogged Coetzee into the 'Cow Corner' for his fourth and final maximum.

'Advocate XI' that trains talent-

ed young kids who can't afford

to pay fees. It was there that I first

'His personality, the confidence

he carried and the way everyone

treated him with so much

respect made me feel I wanted

to reach that level too. He's also

a left-handed batter. So, I could

Dubey now wants to meet for-

mer Sri Lankan batsman Kumar

Sangakkara, the RR Director of Cricket and Head Coach.

"I have followed Sanga sir's jour-

ney till his retirement and he is

such a respected figure in the

relate to him even more."

saw Fazal.



Muzumdar mantra for India Women side

Without fretting over oppo-sition's achievements and threats they pose, the need to focus inward was one clear message delivered to the Indian Women cricket team under him, said head coach Amol Muzumdar here on Wednesday. Having beaten both their fancied opponents England and Australia in consecutive one-off Tests here, in-form India has now set sights on extracting maximum result from the limited-overs series against Alyssa Healy's side, beginning Thursday.

The three-match ODI series will be followed by a T20I series for as many games.

With the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup scheduled for September-October 2024 in Bangladesh to be followed by the 50-over World Cup to be held in India, Muzumdar said focus has been on the 'bigger picture' given his side's trait of failing at crucial moments.

"I will now shy away from saying that we have not had a look at the bigger picture. But at the same time, do not lose focus on the current happenings," Muzumdar told the media ahead of India's training session at the Wankhede Stadium.

"Yes, they (Australia) are a good team. They have been doing well in the past, but the message is very clear to the team - we would look inwards," he said.

"We would look to improve on every given opportunity on every single day. If we can do that, I will be happy," he said. Muzumdar acknowledged Australia as a consistent team over a period of time but once again emphasised on the importance of looking inwards.

"They have been a consistent team for a long period of time and that is why they have won so many World Cups whether it is T20 or ODI," he said.

"But we need to focus on our strengths and we need to focus inward and think about how we are going to do against one of the best sides in the world," he

added.

Muzumdar said he has had several on and off-field discussions with captain Harmanpreet Kaur on how to take this side forward, which also helped break the ice between the two.

"Honesty is one thing I have always stressed on. (We) had honest conversations and that must have broken the ice. You need to ask Harman about it, Muzumdar said.

"I have been very honest in my cricketing discussions that we have had, the suggestions have been welcomed at the same time," he said.

"We have had a lot of discussions off the field regarding how we have to get it right and sometimes the decisions come correct... one-odd decision must have broken the ice," said Muzumdar. Muzumdar said Harmanpreet

has been the glue that holds this team together. "She is basically the glue of the team and they all rally around her," he said. "They look up to her for inspiration and she has been a very

inspirational figure in the dressing room for a number of years now and she carries that aura," he added. With India naming four rookies for the ODI and T20Is

against Australia in Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Titas Sadhu and Saika Ishaque, Muzumdar said the squad has been picked keeping the World Cup in mind.

"Credit also goes to the selectors who have picked up the team. We had long, good discussions with the selectors and the BCCI officials that we need to look ahead at the

World Cup," he said. With 11 matches across all formats against two opponents to be played in a span of 35 days, Muzumdar said his side are not

complaining.
"The scheduling has been fan-

tastic," he said. "The T20Is followed by the Test against England and we were

into the red-ball cricket and we have carried that into the

Australia series."

Meeting Vidarbha captain Faiz cricketing fraternity.
"He was also a lefty like me. So, Fazal gave him a much-needed opening to higher-level cricket. just being around him will sure-"One of my uncle's friends sugly be a learning experience for

gested I should get enrolled in to me," he said.

PTI ■ MELBOURNE (AUSTRALIA)

PTI JAIPUR

ities," she had said. The one-off Test, India Australia's pace-bowling captain Pat Cummins playing in their home conditions, you'd expect them to be heavy favourites. We struck twice in four balls to would love to have another crush Pakistan's comeback attempt on the second day of crack at it, show what we the second cricket Test on learned and put it into prac-

Wednesday.

The last women's Test series of more than one match was played way back in 2006, while India had not hosted any red-ball cricket for nine years before 2023. The first of the three-match women's ODI series between India and Australia begins on Thursday at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. This will be followed by three T20Is at DY Patil Stadium in

Navi Mumbai

cricket. "It would create a

real contest over three

games. That would be an

our group, and probably a true test of both sides' abil-



me to do something else despite our struggling financial situation. took up odd jobs to support the family, right from operating a

"My father is a modest man who paan stall to working as a hotel Cummins leads the way

for Pakistan's second wicket.

Pakistan's openers had survived the new ball before Lyon

made the initial breakthrough

in the 16th over, removing

Imam-ul-Haq caught at sec-

ond slip for 10 at 34 for one.

Cummins changed the

momentum of the day's play

by claiming a diving return

catch to dismiss Shafique at

124 for two. Cummins leapt into the air in delight in his

next over after bowling Babar

Azam for one, finding a gap

between bat and pad with a

fabulous off-cutter as the

crowd of 44,837 roared with

delight. Skipper Shan aimed a mighty swipe down the ground, advancing down the pitch and edging a catch to point off Lyon's bowling as Pakistan first day of play in which only slumped to 147 for four. for the scheduled 90 overs Four runs later, pace bowler Josh Hazlewood clipped Saud Shakeel's off stump. When Cummins removed Salman Ali Agha caught behind at 170 for six, Pakistan had endured a middle-order collapse of

Mohammad Rizwan was unbeaten on 29 at stumps. Pakistan trails by 124 runs with four first-innings wickets in hand

five for 46.

Australia had resumed Wednesday on 187 for three, following a rain-interrupted 66 of the scheduled 90 overs were bowled

The home side was bowled out for 318 at lunch Wednesday, losing seven wickets for 131 in an extended morning session that lasted more than twoand-a-half hours. Marnus Labuschagne top-

scored with a patient 63 off 155 balls and Mitchell Marsh crunched 41 off 60 deliveries including six fours and a six. David Warner, dropped on two, scored 38 in a 90-run opening stand with Usman Khawaja (42) Tuesday.

Australia's second top-scorer was the 51 extras conceded by Pakistan, including 20 byes and 15 wides.

Wicketkeeper Rizwan's onehanded catch to remove Alex Carey for four was a fine example of Pakistan's improved efforts on the field Wednesday as pace quartet Shaheen Shah Afridi (2-85), Mir Hamza (2-51), Hasan Ali (2-61) and Aamir Jamal (3-64) maintained pressure on Australia.

Australia won the opening Test in Perth by 360 runs. The third and final Test in the three-match series is scheduled to begin January 3 at the Sydney Cricket Ground, where Pakistan won its last Test in Australia in 1995.

Bangladesh beats New Zealand by 5 wickets

AP ■ NAPIER (NEW ZEALAND)

itton Das carried his bat for Litton Das carried in 242 to steer Bangladesh to a five-wicket win in the opening Twenty20 International on Wednesday as it rolled New Zealand out cheaply at McLean Park for the second time in four

days. On Saturday, Bangladesh bowled out New Zealand for 98 on the same pitch to set up a nine-wicket win in the third one-day international, its first limited-overs victory over the Black Caps on their home soil. Four days later, Bangladesh claimed three wickets with the first nine balls of the New Zealand innings and contained the home side to 134 for nine. The Black Caps were one for three after Shoriful Islam dismissed Finn Allen and Glenn Phillips with consecutive balls in the second over, and then 20 for four following the fall of Daryl Mitchell.

Jimmy Neesham made 48 and captain Mitchell Santner 23 as New Zealand staged a partial

Das led an unhurried run chase that saw Bangladesh reach its target with eight balls to spare. The opener was given out lbw to Tim Southee when he was 22 but had the decision reversed under review and stayed on to steady the innings later.

He needed medical treatment for a leg injury at the start of the 18th over when he was 29 and

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Bangladesh needed 24 from 18 balls. On 33, and with 20 needed from 16 balls, his lofted shot found Ish Sodhi at fine-leg but

the fielder stepped over the boundary line in completing a simple catch, giving Das another reprieve.

Clearly impeded while running between the wickets, Das was able to look on from the nonstriker's end as Mahedi Hasan (19 not out) finished the chase with a six and a four off Adam Milne in the 19th over.

Earlier, Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto entrusted the first over to offspinner Mahedi and the decision paid off when he bowled Tim Seifert with the fourth ball. "In these conditions, spin bowling is hard, but I was able to get my execution right," said Mahedi who was Player of the Match for his all-round perfor-

"I hit the right areas in the power play and was able to do good job for my team. When I bowl well, then I am able to bat confidently and finish the job for my team Seifert went back to a delivery from Mahedi that he tried to dab wide of slip. But, the ball kept low, skipped on and hit his middle stump.

Shoriful then followed up his effort in the third one-dayer, where he took three wickets, with a double strike in the second over. Allen threw his hands, without moving his feet, to a ball going across him and was caught at slip. Next ball Phillips offered no

shot to a delivery that struck him on the knee roll in front of the middle. New Zealand called for a review, but Phillips had begun to walk off the field before the decision was made. When Mitchell was bowled by Mahedi. New Zealand was in desperate trouble. Neesham lifted the Black Caps with his 48 from 29 balls, which included four fours and three sixes. But, he was out just when the innings seemed to be gaining momentum, at 110 for seven in the 17th over.

Shanto (19), Soumya Sarkar (22) and Towhid Hridoy (19) made valuable contributions for Bangladesh but Das held the innings together when it seemed it might falter. Afif Hossain fell to Southee in the 15th over when the visitors were 97 for five and Das had his successful review later in the same over, a turning point in the match.

Had Das fallen, Bangladesh might have struggled, but he survived to the finish.

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