

Ayodhya wakes up to a new dawn

NEW DEI HI

ith no proper drainage system, potholed roads for commuters, and little notice of streetlights until last year, Ayodhya now boasts a mapped sewerage system, worldclass street lamps, and more than five flyovers to facilitate the citizens, as well as the lakhs of floating population, to get a glimpse of Ram Lalla at the Ram Temple with ease, comfort, and palpable convenience. To convey a sense of good administration, the uniformed personnel have been trained to be polite to visitors, as the birthplace of Lord Ram will host millions and millions of people from across the world in the coming days.

In its extra effort to beautify the holy city, the facades of all homes, shops, government and private building infrastructures have been done in the same pattern, particularly those lying adjacent to the roads and streets. While the entire electrical system has gone underground, the colour of the buildings' facades is Pitambari (a yellow texture similar to the color of sandalwood). The expenses on remodeling and coloring of private properties have been undertaken by the government. Another feature added for the convenience of visitors and the citizens of Ayodhya is that very soon the city will have its own City Bus Service for commuting, as it is all set to witness unprecedented growth in all spheres, especially in the



hospitality and tourism sector. Small-time cab service have operators started augmenting their fleet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit the city on Saturday to commission several projects ahead of the January 22 consecration of the Ram Temple.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday reviewed projects, including the ground where PM Modi will be holding a rally on Saturday. He took a selfie after inspecting the ground where Modi will be holding a rally. The CM offered prayers at the Ram Lalla temple and at the Hanumangarhi temple in the city, which has undergone immense beautification to host the visitors next month.

As planned, the voting to select the idol of Lord Ram Lalla from the three carved idols was conducted on Friday, and the ballots have been reserved to share the final decision at an appropriate time. The idol that wins the vote will be placed in the grand Ram Temple set to be unveiled for the people next month.

The voting took place at the Earlier this week,

meeting of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, Ram where members voted to select one among three idols made by separate sculptors.

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra is the trust entrusted with the construction and management of the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

"All three designs, created by separate sculptors, were placed on the table. The idol that could garner the maximum votes will be installed at the consecration of the shrine on January 22, said a committee source. Trust

secretary Champat Rai said that a 51-inch-tall idol of Lord Ram, reflecting a five-year-old Ram Lalla, would be selected from among three designs. "The one that exudes the best divineness and has a childlike look about it will be chosen," he said.

Ram Mandir Construction Chairman Committee Nripendra Misra took stock of the ongoing construction work on the Ram Janmabhoomi Path and the complex on Thursday, along with the top official of the

district, where Prime Minister Modi will be visiting on Saturday, December 30.

Assam Peace Accord inked in historic breakthrough

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

fter two failed attempts since 1992, Athe Centre and the Assam Government signed the long elusive peace accord on Friday, here, with a major faction of one of the biggest separatist groups in the region, the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). This pro-talks faction of the ULFA has agreed to renounce violence and join the mainstream. The tripartite Memorandum of Settlement was inked in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The agreement comes after 12 years of unconditional negotiations between the ULFA faction led by Arabinda Rajkhowa and the government, according to officials.

Shah told reporters that the Centre will ensure all the reasonable demands by ULFA are met in a time-bound manner, and ULFA as an organisation will be disbanded. "We want to assure the ULFA leadership that their trust in the Centre to ensure the success of the peace process will be honored," Shah said, and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bringing peace and stability to the northeast.

Shah said the removal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from many areas of Assam and other Northeast States is proof that insurgency is nearly extinct in the region. Sarma, who sat beside Shah, said the peace deal with ULFA will solve the problem of insurgency in the region to a large extent.

The Modi Government has signed many peace deals with insurgent groups in the Northeast after they agreed to lay down arms. In November, Manipur's oldest valley-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Assam Chi Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during signing of a peace accord between ULFA and the Central and Assam Governments in New Delhi on Friday

based armed group, UNLF, also signed a tripartite peace agreement with the Centre and the state government."

The peace pact is expected to put an end to decades-old insurgency in Assam. However, the hardline faction of the ULFA, headed by Paresh Baruah, is not part of the agreement. Baruah is believed to be residing in a location along the China-Myanmar border. The ULFA was formed in 1979 with the demand for a sovereign Assam.

Since then, it has been involved in subversive activities that led to the central government declaring it a banned outfit in 1990. The Rajkhowa faction joined peace talks with the government on September 3, 2011, after an agreement for the Suspension of Operations (SoO) was signed between it and the central and state governments. The accord addresses a host of long-standing political, economic, and social issues concerning Assam, besides providing cultural safeguards and land rights to the indigenous people, according to officials.

Continued on Page 2

Blast near Israel Embassy: Cops find critical evidence, **FIR likely soon**

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI fter three days of investigation

MP cruise connections: Statue of Oneness to Statue of Unity

Deogarh in Uttar Pradesh. "Long-distance, intra-State cruises will be a new attraction for 2024," he added as he enlisted new projects.

Intra-State cruises, from Miakal Resort in Bargi near Jabalpur to Tindini in Mandla district and from Dharaji in to Sailani Tapu east

Nitish is JD(U) chief as Lalan quits

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish BKumar was elected as the president of Janata Dal (United) on Friday during the party's national executive meeting. The meeting applauded his role in uniting Opposition par-ties and leading the demand for ties and leading th a caste census. The party's chief spokesperson, KC Tyagi, said Kumar has accepted the responsibility, taking over from Lalan Singh. Sources reveal that Lalan Singh was removed due to perceived proximity to the JD(U)'s alliance partner in Bihar, Lalu Yadav's RJD, where Tejaswi Yadav serves as the Deputy CM. Speculation of a rift emerged when Union Ğiriraj Singh Minister claimed that Lalu Prasad once told him, "JD(U) will merge Sena's division," revealed a senior JDU Member of Parliament to The Pioneer. with RJD soon." Nitish Kumar is a man who Nitish Kumar's appointment harbours suspicions about as the JDU boss also grants everyone. He was under the him greater control over the impression that his party party's stance on seat-sharing would split into two factions, across India for the Lok Sabha with one aligning with the elections, a topic he has BJP and the other with the frequently emphasised. He RJD, ultimately making the aspires to be the Prime RJD the largest party in Bihar. Ministerial candidate of the coalition. In the 2019 elections, the JDU secured 16 Nitish had severed ties with the BJP when he suspected that another confidante, RCP of the State's 40 seats, while the BIP won 17. Singh, who was then a Union At the closed-door meeting, Minister in the Modi cabinet, was collaborating with the Singh stepped down and proposed Kumar's name, emphasising that Kumar's leadership is crucial in the BJP to break the JD(U), similar to what happened in Maharashtra with the Shiv



Minister has actively worked to project an image of unity, keeping Singh by his side. Party sources have dismissed claims that Singh's perceived proximity to the RJD was the reason for his ouster, highlighting his decades-long close alliance with Kumar.

During the executive Zuma

that he personally was not

eager to assume the role of the

Embassy, the Delhi Police is planning to register an FIR as they have found "crucial evidence" pointing to a conspiracy to threaten the envoy, sources said on Friday. The Delhi Police has recorded the statements of some people who claimed to have heard the explosion near the Israeli embassy. Delhi Police sources said security

agency officials are contemplating the charges under which the FIR would be registered. They are also analysing if the investigation can be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Officials of the Delhi Police, who are investigating the case, have scanned multiple CCTV footage around the site of the low-intensity blast and spotted a suspect who had come from Jamia Nagar in an autorickshaw. They have questioned multiple auto-rickshaw drivers, including the one who brought that suspect to the spot before the blast occurred on December 26.

"We found some crucial evidence suggesting a blast at Prithviraj Road. The way the letter was put at the spot also suggests that there was a conspiracy to threaten the Israeli envoys because of the Israel-Hamas conflict," a police officer privy to the investigations said. Although no one was injured in the low-intensity blast, an "abusive" letter addressed to the Israeli ambassador was found near the site, officials had said.

According to them, Tuesday's blast and the recovery of the letter are a grim reminder of the 2021 blast near the embassy in which some cars were damaged. The NIA had probed the case.

Învestigating officials are awaiting reports from the National Security Group's laboratory where samples have been sent to ascertain the components used in the explosion that 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. The NSG has a dedicated forensic lab that is trying to find out the components and chemicals used in the blast. "It may take a few more days to submit the final report," a source said.

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ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

s the New Year rings in, tourists' wait As the inew real rings in, courses to enjoy a much-touted inter-State cruise on the Narmada River, from the Statue of Oneness in Omkareshwar, Madhya Pradesh, to the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat, covering nearly 130 km, is all set to end. "Floating jetties are already being put in place for this," said Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary of Culture and Tourism.

The Madhya Pradesh Government is banking heavily on this innovative project, hoping to bolster the economy of the region and introduce a fresh tourism product to attract inbound tourists, particularly those seeking religious and adventure trips.

"The multi-option, multi-destination cruises will be punctuated with rural experiences between the two destinations," added Shukla.

There is more on the platter, much to the delight of adventure and thrillseeking tourists, whose numbers are on the rise. Elaborating on other cruise projects lined up for 2024 in the state, also known as the Incredible Heart of India, Shukla mentioned that plans are afoot to link the Rajhat Dam near Chanderi in Madhya Pradesh to

Omkareshwar, as well as from Sanjit village to the tent city of Gandhi Sagar, are also in the works. The Tawa-Madhai cruise will be revamped with new experiences.

The MPTB has outlined an innovative strategy for 2024, aiming to make it more holistic, inclusive, sustainable, eco-friendly, and adventure-packed. Identifying and developing new trekking trails in various buffer zones of National Parks/Sanctuaries will be part of the 2024 tourism strategy.

The State will be promoted through different biking trails and car rallies. Additionally, a special attraction "The Queens on the Wheel," an all-women seven-day biking event slated for February 2024, will take riders on an adventurous journey from Bhopal to Orchha, passing through Chanderi, Kuno, Gwalior, Mitawali, Padavali Bateshwar, Orchha, and Khajuraho.

"We have elaborate plans to develop many new off-beat destinations, thereby leveraging the unique selling proposition of our State," said the Principal Secretary of Culture and Tourism.

In an effort to enhance connectivity between various destinations, the tourism department is working to reintroduce small aircraft under a Public-Private Partnership.

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Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and JD(U) leader Lalan Singh arrive at the party office in New Delhi on Friday Ranian Dimri | Pioneer

> lead-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, especially as Singh will be occupied with his own election campaign. Singh currently represents the Munger constituency in the Lok Sabha.

Sources indicate that a majority of key leaders within the party believed that Kumar, as its most prominent should figure, assume leadership at this crucial juncture. The party is part of the Opposition INDIA bloc. Criticism of Singh's leadership style by several party leaders in recent interactions with Kumar has been cited as a factor. Amid reports of a rift within the party, the Chief

party's president but would respect the decision of the national executive members who wholeheartedly endorsed the development, according to sources. At the venue, many enthusiastic party members raised slogans, projecting their leader as a prime ministerial candidate. Among the various proposals discussed in the

meeting was Kumar's leadership in advocating for a caste census and conducting a "caste survey" in Bihar. This effort led to the State Government increasing the reservation from the existing 60 per cent to 75 per cent, with

support from every party. Amid the JD(U)'s perceived dissatisfaction with leading members of the INDIA bloc for not assigning a formal role to its most prominent leader in the alliance, one proposal highlighted Kumar's role in reaching out to different Opposition parties to unite them after he severed ties with the BJP in August 2022. **Continued on Page 2**

Delhi, NCR set to experience prolonged cold day spell

RAJESH KUMAR MINEW DELHI

In light of worsening weather con-ditions in the northern region of the country, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) India issued a red alert for dense fog in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Jammu and Kashmir, with winter chill. Delhi and NCR recorded 17 straight hours of dense fog between 7 pm on Thursday and 11.30 am on Friday, marking the longest dense fog spell of the season.

Issuing a "cold day" alert, IMD said "dense to very dense fog" is likely to be witnessed in Delhi and NCR for the next two days. "Cold day conditions are very

likely in some to many parts of Delhi on December 30 and 31," the IMD reported.

INSAT imagery released by the Met department showed that nearly 30 per cent of India's population is experiencing visibility under 50 metres due to a dense fog layer over north India, affecting regions in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and northwest Madhya Pradesh. Experts have advised people not to venture out in their vehicles between 4 am and 10 am unless it is unavoidable.

In an advisory on Friday, the IMD urged people to use fog lights while driving and to stay in touch with airlines, railways, and state transport for schedule updates, as dense fog may affect rail, air, and



highway routes. The impact of dense fog was evident through low visibility conditions leading to traffic disruptions and accidents. Several trains and flights have

been delayed due to obstructed visibility, with the IMD recording the lowest visibility of 50 m at Palam in Delhi between 5.30 am and 7.30 am on Friday, improving to 150m

by 8 am. Despite low visibility, no flight diversions or cancellations were reported at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport, though over 100 international and domestic flights faced delays, owing to low visibility. Airports classify a flight as "delayed" when it is late by more than 15 minutes. The Runway Visual Range (RVR) is currently within the range of 400 metres to 800 metres, according to the India Meteorological Department.

Amid dense fog disrupting flight operations at the Delhi airport in the last few days, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said the Ministry is coordinating with the airport and airlines, and putting in place measures to deal with the

issue. Terming the fog issue as a "transitory phenomenon," the minister also said this year the situation has been slightly unprecedented in terms of the density of fog. Many flights were diverted and scores were delayed at the Delhi airport due to dense fog.

"Fog issue is an issue that we encounter 15-20 days every year... This year, there has been unprecedented fog for the last three or four days. We are coordinating with all the airlines to make sure that they have CAT II and CAT III-trained pilots during fog hours, thereby easing congestion," Scindia said. CAT II and III requirements pertain to operating flights in low visibility conditions.

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Bengal BJP to launch Ghar Ghar Yatra in from Jan 1

SAUGAR SENGUPTA 🗖 KOLKATA

In an apparent bid to draw maximum leverage from the January 22 inauguration of Ram Mandir at Avodhva, the Bengal BJP has decided to launch a Ghar Ghar Yatra (reaching the households) from January 1.

The 15-day initiative is "aimed at making people aware of the long-cherished dream of the ancient Ram Temple becoming a reality,"Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Âdhikari said, adding however that it had no political underpinning. "Though some people are

trying to give it a political angle which it is not ... we are just trying to discharge a social duty by not only telling the people that we have achieved the dream but also invite the people in general to visit Ayodhya --- for which the central government has given more than 700 trains," Adhikari said adding "Lord Rama runs in the veins of the Hindus all over the world." Comparing the inauguration of Ram Temple with Bengal Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee's initiative, the temple of Lord Jagannath at the beach town of Digha --shaped after the ancient Jagannath Puri temple ---Adhikari said, "it is Mamata Banerjee who is playing politics with religion ... while the Ram Mandir is being constructed with the funds donated by the Hindus all over the world, her Jagannath

PUBLIC NOTICE NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 Upbhokta Nyay Bhawan 'F'- Block, General Pool Office Complex, INA, NEW DELHI-110023 Telephone No.: 011-24608801-04 Fax No.:011-24651505 CONSUMER COMPLAINT No. 254 OF 2018 Guishan Kumar & Anr.Complainant: Versus Versus Ramprastha Builders (P) Ltd. & Ani

M/s Ramprastha Builders (P) Ltd. & Anr.Opposite Party THE PURCHASERS/ALLOTTEES OF THE RESIDENTIAL FLATS/UNITS IN THE BUILDING KNOWN AS MILLENA EMERALD HEIGHT, RAMPRASTHA GREENS SECTOR-7, VAISHALI GHAZIABAD, UTTER PRADESH-201010 Whereas the above Complainants have, through Mr. R.P. Arora, Advocate, having address at: 904, Coral Heights, Ramaprastha Greens, Sector-7, Vaishali Ghazaibad, Utter Pradesh-201010. Mob. 9650010499 filed the captioned Consumer Complaint before the Hon'ble National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi on behalf and/or for the benefit of all the consumer who have either booked or have been Delhi on behall and/or for the benefit of all the consumers who have either booked or have beer allotted a flat, IN THE BUILDING KNOWN AS MILLENIA EMERALD HEIGHT, RAMPRASTHA GREENS SECTOR-7, VAISHALI GHAZIABAD UTTER PRADESH-201010, being developed by the Opposite Parties named above for redressal o heir common grievances, and seeking th ollowing reliefs:-

A. Hand over vacant possession of balance portion of stilt, after demolishing construction thereon le A Hand over vacant possession of balance portio of still, after demolishing construction thereon le after sale of 4 flats, to MERWA as per law. Sinc the buyers of flats have bought the flats in goo faith believing the Opposite Party's assertion the the conversion of still to apartments was lega should not be uprooted and deprived of a heads



Temple is being funded by the State Government ... she is doing so to show herself as a big Hindu which she is not ... she is a fake Hindu who is leading a Government of thieves

spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that some self-seeking politicians were trying to hijack Lord Rama for their own narrow political gains and the people knew this anyway

if a few thousand people, mainly BJP workers, visit Ayodhya on tickets provided by their party ... this will give a fillip to winter tourism ... but when it comes to votes the BJP will lose once again as they had lost in 2021. Earlier Adhikari in a public

launched a scathing attack on the Chief Minister calling her a "thief" who had befooled people by promising them heaven but giving them a

Letter no. 3323/Nivida-Anubandh/Haldwani/195

Period of Completion:- 12 Months

30-12-2023(10.00 hrs)

(11.00 hrs)

Haldwani.



ruption. Referring to the "guarantees" offered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi he said, "if the people of Bengal strengthen the hands of Modi ji then the

Reacting to Adhikari's state-ments Trinamool Congress guarantees offered by him will soon start coming .. like in Rajasthan, in Bengal too the people will start get-ting LPG for Rs 450 per cylinder. Slamming the Chief Minister for keeping lakhs of govern-ment posts vacant he said, "when I was in the TMC

He said, "there is no problem Mamata Banerjee once told me that for each government job you will have to spend Rs 25,000 and forthat we will get only four votes but if we give Rs 500 per person then we will get 5000 votes by spending the same Rs 25,000 ... that day I realized that this is a meeting at East Midnapore

fraud Chief Minister who is playing with the State's future by intentionally keeping 6 lakh government posts vacant

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WIN UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI , DISTT.- NAINITAL(PIN 263139)

E-Tender Notice

Singh Jeena Base Hospital, Haldwani, District-Nainital.

Estimated Cost: - Rs. 84.95 Lakh (without G.S.T.)

Name of the work:- Construction/Extension of Boundary Wall, Construction of Road and Renovation Work of Soban

Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal

Online Bid submission: End date :- 15-01-2024 (17.00 hrs)

Date & Time of Technical bid Opening:- 17-01-2024

Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - General

Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam

For further details, details of subsequent Amendment/correction



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN 📕 KOCHI

✓erala Government got two Kministers on Friday in lieu of the two ministers who were dropped on Christmas. Kadannappalli Ramachandran (80) and K B Ganesh Kumar (58) were sworn in as members of the council of ministers headed by Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday evening as a special shamiana in the Raj Bhavan at Thiruvananthapuram. More than the swearing in of

the ministers, what stood out was the indifference shown in public by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Pinarayi Vijayan. The head of the State and the head of the Government did not greet each other or exchange a word. Throughout the function, Vijayan, Kerala's Karana Bhoothan, sat grim faced and did not look towards the Governor who was sitting near him. But Vijayan was seen flushing and smiling at the Raj Bhavan staff, particularly the women officers. Once the ten minute long

swearing in ceremony was over, Vijayan walked out of the stage without attending the tea party. Besides Ramachandran and Ganesh Kumar only one minister turned out for the high tea hosted by the General Administration Department. The Government of Kerala has filed a complaint in the Supreme Court against the Governor for not signing on orders issued by the former appointing persons who are close to the CPI-M leadership in important positions and also for throwing cold water over their move to appoint party cadre or their relations as vice-

Congress panel

discusses seat

State leaders

sharing with party

chancellors of the universities in the State. This has upset the Governor who has been following a path of consensus with the State administration. The last few days saw the SFI, the students wing of the CPI-M demonstrating against the Governor by waving black flags and even blocking his cavalcae when he went to Kozhikode to attend official functions. P M Arsho, the militant State Secretary of the SFI, who is facing many criminal cases, went to the extent of declaring that the Governor would not be allowed to enter in any of the university campuses in the State. The Chief Secretary of the State is yet to submit replies to the questions sent by the Governor seeking explanations

staff. The Chief Secretary made a strategic decision on Friday by abstaining himself from the swearing in ceremony. In his absence the show was held under the auspices of the additional chief secretary, who happens to be the spouse of the for-

senior lawyer of Kerala High Court and a Constitutional

for the non-payment of pension and salaries to the government

mer.

If the ice between the Governor and the chief minister does not melt, it is likely to lead to a Constitutional crisis in Kerala. The Governor is scheduled to address the budget session of the Legislative assembly in January 2024 and if he refuses to read out the speech that would be prepared by the Kerala Government, it is likely to put the Pinarayi Vijayan led government in a dilemma, according to K Ram Kumar,

Rural diabetes prevention, control campaign launched from Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

With diabetes spreading fast in the far off rural India also, the Government on Friday launched a Rural Diabetes Prevention & Control Campaign from a village in Varanasi district in Uttar Pradesh.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Science and Technology Minister who launched the campaign noted that "Spread of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus is assuming epidemic proportions in India...the nonchronic disease, hitherto identified as afflicting mostly the rich and elite is now surging in rural India as well due to commonality of eating habits such as rising penchant for fast foods, more automation in agriculture and a resultant lack of physical activity.

Dr Singh who is also a Professor of Medicine and a Diabetologist, launched the programme at a Village Adoption Program under the aegis of Research Society for Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI) - Uttar Pradesh Chapter.

Terming the fast spread of Diabetes in the villages as a matter of grave concern, Dr Jitendra Singh said this has prompted a mass campaign for prevention of the disease in rural areas.

Lauding the efforts of RSSDI for taking this initiative towards diabetes prevention and manage-ment in rural India, he applaud-

ed the efforts quoting ICMR-INDIAB Study which says UP has 18% of its population in prediabetes stage.

"Such a large population, on the verge of being diabetic, can only be prevented if we start working for prevention in vil-lages in the vicinity of big cities & progressing fast to urbaniza-tion. The idea of choosing Ramnagar for this initiative seems appropriate," he said. Dr Singh also appreciated the efforts done by RSSDI UP Chapter by adopting four villages in Barabanki in 2019 where people's lives are better and diabetes control is

improved. "This encourages us to continue efforts in the same direction, in fact in a more intensive manner," he said.

Dr Singh said, over the last two decades, India has seen a surge in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, which has now acquired pan-Indian proportions. He said, Type 2 Diabetes, which was till two decades ago prevalent mostly in South India, is today equally rampant in North India and at the same time, it has also moved from metros, cities and urban areas to rural hinterland. Quoting from the Indian Council of Medical Research Guidelines, the Minister said, the past three decades witnessed a 150 per cent increase in the number of people with dia-betes in the country. He said, the main concern is the progressive lowering of the age at which Type 2 Diabetes is being diagnosed, with the disease prevalence becoming apparent in the age group of 25-34 years in both

urban and rural areas. He advised people to take a call on their heath welfare as lifestyle management plays an essential role in managing Type 2 Diabetes, and understanding the effect of diet and physical activity on glycemia is essential for optimal management of the disease.

Dr Singh highlighted that the Indian phenotype is different from the Westerners and the genetic preponderance is also quite different. As a result, the pathogenesis and progress of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and other related metabolic disorders is not the same as in the Western populations.

Dr Singh said that in times to come, India is all set to lead the Diabetes research in the world. "India has a huge resource pool of patients with different manifestations of diseases at different stages and at the same time there is no dearth of calibre, capacity and acumen on the part of our researchers. It is therefore the right time to generate as much Indian data as possible because the goal should be to develop Indian treatment regimens for Indian patients, Indian solutions for Indian problems," he said.

32 AGMUT cadre IPS officers promoted to DIG

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has promoted 32 IPS officers of AGMUT cadre to the post of Deputy Inspector General(DIG). The promoted officials are from the 2009-2010 batches. A decision in this regard was taken in a meeting of the Screen Committee of the Ministry held on December 20, 2023.

IPS officials Shakti Kumar Pathak, Dr Mohd

Haseeb Mughal, Jaid Ahmed Koul, Shahid Mehraj Rather, Rayees Mohamad Bhai, all from 2009 batch and Amit Sharma, Shweta Chauhan, Esha Pandey, Rajendra Prasad Meena, Rajeev Ranjan Singh from 2010 batch are among those who have been promoted to the DGI level with effect from January 1, 2024 or from the date of assumption of charge, whichever is later, as per an order from the Ministry.

Nitish is JD(U) chief as Lalan...

From Page 1

From Page 1

agreement

chronology

Sivasagar.

constitution.

targeting

Two top leaders of the

sources said. Here is a

its inception: April 7, 1979:

The United Liberation Front

of Asom (ULFA) was formed

politicians, business houses

from outside the state, tea

gardens, and public sector

companies, particularly in

turmoil during the first term

of the Asom Gana Parishad

government led by Prafulla

Kumar Mahanta, with the

ULFA unleashing a spate of

kidnappings, extortions, and

killings, including Russian

November 1990: Unilever's

seven tea executives airlifted

engineer Sergei.

the oil and gas sector. 1985-1990: Assam slips into

of events

Congress

expert.

The general secretary, Dhananjay Singh, noted that it was Kumar who emphasised that there cannot be an opposition alliance without the Congress, countering the idea of a front of different non-BJP parties minus the Congress proposed by some regional leaders, including BRS leader K Chandrashekar Rao.

The executive also condemned the suspension of 146 opposition MPs from Parliament during the recent Winter Session.

During the meeting, Kumar stated that he would ensure senior members of the party are given various roles.

On Thursday, Singh rejected reports about his likely departure within the as JD(U) president and any rift are trying to set the narrative... JD(U) is one and will remain united." He made these remarks in response to media queries on his resignation and differences within the party. Kumar echoed this view before boarding the flight from Patna to Delhi

MP cruise connections: From Page 1 Statue...

From Page 1 "This is the best time to restart this initiative, as the tourism sector has now bounced back after a postpandemic lull," adds Shukla. The 2024 calendar will include retreats for yoga and meditation.

Wellness vacations offer much beyond diet and urturing retreats will feature a variety of creative offerings. I am confident that this endeavor will elevate the tourist graph of the state," informed Shukla. The plan is to host 12 such retreats in the first year, followed by 24 and 36 in the second and third consecutive years. The retreats will be hosted in select hotels owned by the Madhya Pradesh State Development Tourism Corporation.



Police sources said they have recorded statements from a dozen people who claimed to

have heard the loud noise of the blast. The statements reveal that the witnesses spotted a vehicle which broke down near the blast location. Police have also prepared a list of people who were seen near the spot just before the low-intensity blast occurred on Tuesday with the help of footage taken from CCTV



Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place : 05-01-2024 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager, Construction Unit, PNS NEW DEI HI

Dated: 28-12-2023

Opposite Party is liable to pass over the proceed of illegal sale of Complainants' common areas to the Complainants/ MERWA with interest.

Provide permanent solution to the problem leakage/seepage of water in the basement ide Completion Certificate to Complainant MERWA

Provide NOCs in respect of lifts, generators electric installations and other essential services layout plan, building plan, parking plan, traffi plan, plan for location of generators etc.

plan, plan for location of generators etc. E. Provide Municipal water F. Construct additional 9 meter wide road from Pearl Court to Cate no. 3 from point A to A ir Annexure-C/8 & Annexure-C/9 and provide lighting on all roads in Ramaprastha Greens. G. Provide club, school, community shopping as agreed and promised at the time of booking allotment and also provided in the layout plans approved by Ghaziabad Development Authority. Wether A Pay to the Willenia Fmeraid Residents Wether Pay to the Millenia Emerald Residents Welfar Association that represents all the flat-owner sums of money mentioned in Para No. 23 hereinabove.

Restrain the Opposite Party and/or its employees, agents, assigns from raising any structures or doing any act in contravention o sanctioned plans in any area of Ramaprastha Greens Township

J.Restrain the Opposite Party and/or its employees, agents, assigns from selling Fla Nos. 1501 and 1502 or assigning or disposing of in any manner whatsoever till the settlemen of Complainants' dues as enumerate ereinabóve

(.To pass other/further orders as this Hon'ble Commission may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case."

And whereas the Honble Commission vide its and circumstances of the case.⁴ And whereas the Honble Commission vide its pleased to direct issue of notice of the institution of the above captioned complaint to all the consumers having same interest in the matter. Accordingly all allottees of the above referred Project having the same grievance against the Opposite Parties, may appear before the Commission in-person or through an Advocate/ Authorized Representative on **5.03.2024** at **10.30** A.M. They can inspect the file of the Counsel for the Complainant (s) and apply for being impleaded as a party to the complaint. Note:-

They may also note that the decision of the Commission in the captioned complaint will be binding on all the consumers on whose behal and/or for whose benefit the complaint is instituted Dated, this 10th day of November, 2023

By Order (Rajesh Nath) Assistant Regist

documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portalwww.uktenders.gov.in GENERAL MANAGER

Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Haldwani.

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF NRRA OF TRANS GULF FROZEN FOOD CONTAINERS PRIVATE LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION) (CIN- U15139DL2004PTC124342)

M/S Trans Gulf Frozen Food Containers Private Limited is a company under as per the order dated 20.05.2021 passed by Hon'ble NCLT, Principal Bench, New Delhi having Registered Office at A-5, Jhilmil Industrial Area, Shahdara, East Delhi, Delhi-110095. It is having recoverable amounts from Untraceable 37 No's of Trucks, Preferential Transaction & Fraudulent Trading or wrongful trading under section 43 and 66 of Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 respectively Amounting to Rs. 30,00,000 and The Liquidator is asking for invitation to assign the Not-Readily Realizable Assets ('NRRA')

on the following terms and conditions as per regulation 37A of The IBBI (Liquidation Process) Regulation 2016.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER ARE AS UNDER:

The assignment of transfer of Untraceable 37 No's of Trucks, Preferential Transaction and Fraudulent Trading or wrongful Trading under section 43 and 66 of Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 respectively will be done on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT Is" and "WHATEVER THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS". The interested Person must be eligible u/s 29A of IBC, 2016. The interested Person can request for details/clarifications from the liquidator's office

by sending a mail at <u>tgff.liq@gmail.com</u> & can inspect the available documents with the liquidator in his office and on evaluation of the same, can submit their expression of interest (EOI) to the liquidator. The interested person(s) is requested to submit their EOI along with their financial

offer with detailed terms and conditions and all supporting documents in writing at the address given below in a sealed envelope from 01.01.2024 to 15.01.2024 (within the working Hrs. i.e., 10.00 AM to 06.00 PM).

The term and Conditions of the agreement for assignment of Untraceable 37 No's o Trucks, Preferential Transaction and Fraudulent Trading or wrongful Trading under section 43 and 66 of Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 respectively shall be finalized after consultation with the Stakeholders Consultation Committee as per Regulation 3. of The IBBI (Liquidation Process) Regulation, 2016.

Mukesh Kumar Jain, Liquidato

BHOPAL, Dated- 28/12/2023

Liquidator of Trans Gulf Frozen Food Containers Private Limited IBB Registration No.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P-01960/2020-2021/13088 Address: T-1, 3rd Floor, Pankaj Arcade, Plot No. 16, Sector-5 Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075 E-mail ID: tgff.liq@gmail.com Date: 30.12.2023, Place: New Delhi Contact No.: 981847817

The liquidator shall have the right to reject any EOI without giving any reason to interested person. Further, it is pertinent to mention here that mere submission of EOI and inspection of the document will not be considered as allotment of NRRA. The liquidator reserves the right to cancel or modify the process without assigning an reason and without any liability whatsoever. This is not an offer document. The successful assignor (Buyer) will be decided after the approval the Stakeholder Consultation Con

BHOPAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BHOPAL (M.P.)

No. 1014/EE-8/e-tender/BDA/2023

Notice Inviting e-Tenders On-line percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from Contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration & eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document

Portal Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amounts of Contract	Cost of Bid Document	Period of Completion the Work
2023_DTCP	Balance development works at Sardar Vallabh Bhai	1837. 99 Lacs	45000/- + G.S.T	18 Months Including
_322708	Patel Scheme, Misrod Phase-II,, Bhopal.		+ Portal Fees	Rainy Season
2023_DTCP	Development of open/park at A, C & D Sector at Sardar	649.46 Lacs	30000/- + G.S.T	9 Months Including
_322710	Vallabh Bhai Patel Scheme, Misrod Phase-II, Bhopal.		+ Portal Fees	Rainy Season
2023_DTCP	Development of open/park at B & E Sector at Sardar	575.78 Lacs	30000/- + G.S.T	9 Months Including
_322712	Vallabh Bhai Patel Scheme, Misrod Phase-II, Bhopal.		+ Portal Fees	Rainy Season

The detailed NIT and all other details relating to the Bid Document can be viewed on the websi http://mptenders.gov.in

The Bid Document can be purchased after making on-line payment of portal fees and cost of Bid Docun through Credit Card/Debit Card/Cash Card or Internet Banking system at aforesaid website fron 05/01/2024, 17:30 Hrs. to 29/01/2024 17:30 Hrs. Other key dates may be seen in bid data sheet.

Amendments to the NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper

Any relevant information can be obtained from office of the undersigned during the office working hours & days

Executive Engineer Division No-08

ongress's National All Committee, set up to facilitate seat-sharing talks with allies, started meetings with party leaders from the states on Friday and will continue Saturday how to go with the negotiations with the allies and submit a report to party chief Mallikarjun Kharge early next week.

According to sources, Kharge held an interaction with the Congress general secretaries in-charge of all states after the rally at Nagpur on Thursday evening and discussed the upcoming polls and organisational issues.

The five-member National Alliance Committee of the Congress held meetings on Friday with leaders from the states where the party is likely to contest the general election in an alliance with other INDIA bloc constituents.

The committee will then submit a report to the party president, providing details for the negotiation, including listing out the seats where the Congress is in a strong position.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To whomever it may concern this is to bring in common notice that I Kavita Jain W/o Amit jain is owner of property having details Property no X/3173 Khasra no 247 Gali no -2 Raghubarpura no -2 Gandhi Nagar Village Seelampur Illaqa Shahdara Delhi-110031, I have purchased this property vide sale deed no - 7166 Dated 21/12/2020 and retifaction deed no 12367 dated 20/12/2023. This is to confirm that we are absolut

owner. If anyone has any disputes pleas inform within 15 days to Mr. Ashok Singl Mob. No. 9312306881

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Wajid Al han is purchasing the Residential House No. RC 299 on Plot No. A-6, land area measuring 508g rituated at Lokpriya Vihar, Village Makanpur argana Loni, Tehsil Dadri, District Ghaziabad .P. from Mr. Sagir Ahmed Sto Mohd. Sadik Vide edg. GPA dated 19.06.1997 Duly Regd. As Do o. 3021. and same to be finance & mortgage b uthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL), Thai riginal ATS executed by Mr. Tahir Ali Só Maksoo In favor of Mr. Sagir Ahmed S/o Makho. Sadik Jo. 3021. and same to be finance & mortgage by withoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHL)., That Nithot ATS executed by Mr. Tahir All S/o Maksood iin favor of Mr. Sagir Ahmed S/o Mohd. Sadik & Jriginal WILL executed by Mr. Tahir All S/o Maksood All in favor of Mr. Sagir Ahmed S/o Mohd. Sadik. Is sostMisplaced/No1 available. To comply the equirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public ucide that if any Person having any type of claim righ/title/interest/ creating mortgage over the said property. may inform in writing, at the address nentioned below, about his objections, within 4ays from today, failing which it shall be presumed hat the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lienetc. Lucern Legal LLP -33B, Second Floor, Ops. BBI Bank, Sector 2 Nolda, UP-201301, Contact # 0120-4269379 After the meeting, Singh refuted any notion of a rift in the party, saying, "Anger? What anger? Why should I be angry? This is the first time I am hearing this word.

However, Tejaswi Yadav dismissed any rift and accused the BJP of "planting stories" to destabilise the JDU-RJD alliance in the state. Yadav's reaction came after the BJP's Sushil Modi, who was the Deputy Chief Minister until Nitish Kumar quit that alliance, claimed that the JDU was spreading rumors about reallying with the BJP to keep the RJD and Congress in check.



from Doomdooma with the help of the Union Home Rajkhowa group, Anup Ministry and without the Chetia and Sashdhar knowledge of the Assam Ministry and without the government.

Choudhary, have been in the 28. 1990: national capital since last November week, giving the final touches to the peace Operation Bajrang is launched by the Army against the ULFA. The alongside operations are led by GOC 4 government interlocutors, Corps Commander Lt Gen Ajay Singh, who later associated with ULFA since becomes Assam's Governor. November 29, 1990: President's Rule is imposed with the dismissal of the at Rang Ghar, an Ahom era Mahanta-led AGP government.

amphitheatre, in Assam's November 1990: Assam is June 1979: Members meet at declared a Disturbed Area, Moran to discuss the outfit's and the Armed Forces name, symbol, flag, and (Special Powers) Act is invoked. ULFA is declared a 1980: The group starts separatist and unlawful flexing its muscles by organisation.

January 31, 1991: Operation Bajrang is called off.

January 1991: Then-Prime Minister Chandrasekhar informs the Rajya Sabha that the Central Government would take necessary steps if ULFA expressed willingness for political talks. ULFA responded that no talks were possible as long as the army operation and President's Rule continued, and that there would be no compromise on their demand for Assam's 'sovereignty.'

1eras, he said The statements of at least 10 people, including security guards and passersby who claimed to have heard the explosion and also saw some smoke, have been recorded, the official said. With the help of dump data from mobile phones active near the spot and CCTV camera footage, a few people have been identified and some of them were questioned on Thursday, the officer added.

very poor' till December 31.

At the Anand Vihar area,

Delhi, NCR set to experience...

From Page 1

The civil aviation ministry is monitoring the fog situation on a daily basis. He also said measures are being put in place, including monitoring congestion at a landing airport so that takeoff is not allowed if there is no direct routing, ensuring there is no congestion.

A Northern Railways spokesperson said that at least 11 trains were running late by more than one hour on Friday morning. As per the latest update, several trains, including Rajdhani Express on the Delhi-Howrah route, were delayed by 10 and 12 hours. According to the IMD, after four days of dense to very dense fog, visibility improved in many parts of Delhi on Friday afternoon as most fog transformed into low clouds, indicating weakening of the lower-level stable boundary layer. The minimum temperature in Delhi was recorded at 10.7 degrees Celsius, four notches above the season's average. Meanwhile, the city air continued to remain 'very poor,' with the average air quality index (AQI) at 332 around 9 am, settling at 382 at 4 pm.

PM2.5 levels remained in the 'severe' category standing at 473, and PM10 reached 447. The Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport T3 witnessed PM2.5 levels at 425 and PM10 at 405, both falling under the 'severe' category. Weather conditions are not favorable for the effective dispersion of pollutants. Emissions from firecrackers if burnt on December 31 will further deteriorate air quality... The predominant surface wind is likely to be from the east-southeast direction in Delhi-NCR with a wind speed of 6-4 kmph with partly cloudy sky with dense to very dense fog at most places in the morning on December 29," the IITM's air quality early warning system has predicted. The Met Department stated that fog conditions would not improve before January 2. In an advisory for dense fog, the Met department has asked drivers to use fog lights and travelers to stay updated on schedules of airlines, railways, and state transport. "Exercise caution while driving or using any mode of transportation,

Forecasts state that Delhi's air quality is likely to remain the IMD said.



Suspend health secretary: Bharadwaj Minor stabs cab driver to

Alambagh based on disclo-

find him, they said.

sources.

house.

Che Guevara.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

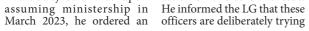
 $D_{\text{Saurabh Bharadwaj has}}^{\text{elhi Health Minister}}$ recommended immediate suspension of Delhi's health secretary SB Deepak Kumar by the Lieutenant Governor and Central Government on the issue of irregularity in purchase of medicines supplied in Delhi government hospitals to ensure fair inquiry in the case. The minister has also demanded strict action against the then Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Dr Nutan Mundeja in the matter.

The Delhi government's Directorate of Vigilance on Thursday wrote to the home ministry, requesting it to assign the probe into the supply of "sub-standard" drugs to staterun hospitals to the CBI. Saxena last week recommended a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry into the alleged supply of drugs that "failed quality standard tests" and had the "potential of endangering lives" to hospitals run by the city government.

Addressing a press conference at the Delhi Secretariat, Bharadwaj, expressed displeasure over the continuous circulation of news through news-



papers and news channels that and consumables on 21.03.2023 to the Health certain samples of medicines and other products used in Secretary then DGHS. Despite Delhi government hospitals have not met the prescribed his repeated reminders to the standards. " Despite such inci-Health Secretary regarding the dents, Delhi's Lieutenant audit, no action was taken. Governor (LG) has not taken In October, a complaint was any firm action against the offilodged with the L.G. against the cials concerned," said Health Secretary and then Bharadwaj, demanding imme-DGHS due to their obstrucdiate suspension and strict tionist approach, but no action actions by the LG and Central was taken. The Health Minister stated that after the disap-Govt against Delhi's Health pointment from the LG's office, Secretary, S.B Deepak Kumar and then DGHS Dr Nutan we knocked on the doors of the Mundeja on this issue. Supreme Court to initiate Bharadwaj said that upon action on this sensitive issue.



to obstruct the essential policies of the Delhi Government, especially schemes like the 'Farishtey Scheme' and other initiatives of the Health Department. These officers have withheld funds for other such schemes.

Bharadwaj stated that he has issued orders several times to the Health Secretary to conduct an audit regarding the pro-curement of medicines. However, Health Secretary S.B. Deepak Kumar has not conducted any audit, nor has any report been submitted to the Health Minister's office. "If there are irregularities in the procurement of medicines, he wants them to be exposed, and action to be taken against the guilty officials. However, it appears that Health Secretary S.B. Deepak Kumar was unwilling to conduct an audit of medicines procurement, and if there were any irregularities in the procurement, he did not want them to come to light," he said.

The Delhi Health Minister raised questions about Delhi's LG and the BJP-led Central Government. Bharadwaj said he has repeatedly issued orders to the Health Secretary for an audit. Still, the Health Secretary has not conducted any audit. The LG and the BJP-led gov ernment should take strict action against these guilty officials. Shouldn't these officials be suspended? Despite continuous reminders, Health Secretary S.B. Deepak Kumar has not conducted an audit, should the LG and the BJP-led government not take strict action against these guilty offi-cials. I want to know if an investigation is conducted now, will it be impartial, given that the officer responsible for the audit is himself implicated in the matter? Will the health secretary not influence the investigation?," he added.

Taking a dig at LG and Central Government, Bharadwaj said "It is quite clear that the BJPled Central Government is actively working to protect the officials involved in the wrongdoing.

Health Secretary S.B. Deepak Kumar, responsible for the Health Department, should regularly inspect departmental activities, conduct audits of medicine procurement, and fulfil his duties appropriately. However, the Health Secretary has failed to do so. Before my recommendation, the LG

death in road rage brawl

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

In a road rage case, a cab driver was allegedly stabbed to death in South Delhi's Mehrauli area by one of the three minors on a motorcycle following a verbal spat in the midst of a traffic jam, the police said. The deceased has been identified as Manoj Kumar who worked with a private firm in Gurgaon and was driving its employees back home when the incident took place on Thursday night. All the three accused have been identified and the minor has been apprehended, they said.

"Manoj Kumar (34) worked as a cab driver for a Gurugrambased BPO. On Thursday evening, he picked up five BPO employees from the Malviya Nagar area and then one from Mehrauli. Later, the cab got stuck in a traffic jam in Mehrauli," a senior police officer said.

'Around 8:40 pm, three boys on a scooter came from behind and started honking at should have suspended them." Kumar, asking for space to



capital 03

move ahead. The cab driver was unable to make way for them as there was no room. Soon, a verbal spat ensued between the two sides. One of the scooter riders stabbed Kumar in the chest with a knife before fleeing from the spot with his accomplices,' the police officer.Kumar was rushed to Safdarjung Hospital, where doctors

declared him dead on arrival, police said. A case of murder has been registered in the matter, they said."The minor has been apprehended.

The remaining accused have been identified and will be arrested soon," said the officer said. The body has been sent for

post-mortem examination, police said.

specialist committee," Ms. Swaraj said. "All that the AAP

governments have to show are

stories of liquor scam, fake

medicines scam, bungalow

scam, drug sale in Punjab or

ministers of Punjab and Delhi

BJP, AAP spar over rejection of Delhi, Punjab Parliament security breach: Lucknow Police help sought to trace cyclist cobbler tableaux in upcoming Republic Day parade

PTI NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has sought the help of its Lucknow counterparts to trace a "cyclist cobbler" who created cavities in the shoes of Parliament security breach case accused Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D to fit smoke canisters in them, sources said.

Police want to make the cobbler a witness in the case, they said.

Sagar first tried to modify the shoes himself but approached the cobbler, who visited Alambagh in Lucknow on a bicycle, after he was unsuccessful, the Delhi Police sources said.

A Delhi Police team visited Lucknow to search for the cobbler earlier this month. In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack on December 13, Sagar and Manoranjan jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour, released yellow smoke from canisters and shouted

slogans before they were overhe MPs

They gained entry into the tioned several cobblers in Parliament using visitors' passes facilitated by two-term Lok Sabha member from Mysuru

Pratap Simha. During interrogation, Sagar revealed that he tried to design shoes with a cavity after he found out that they were not checked during entry into the Parliament, the sources said. "When he did not succeed in his attempts, he went to a cobbler in Alambagh. He has told the interrogators that he bought two pairs of shoes for Rs 595 each from a shop near his house and approached the cobbler, who visited Alambagh

on a bicycle," a source said. The cavity was found created by cutting the inside sole of the left shoe. The thickness of the sole of shoes is also found increased by affixing additional rubber sole at the bottom to support the cavity. The inside sole of the right foot shoe was also found partly cut," accord-ing to the FIR.

A team of the Delhi Police Special Cell visited Lucknow earlier this month to search for the cobbler but was unable to STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

sures made by Sagar during his War of words continued between AAP and BJP interrogation, the sources said. Delhi Police wants to make the cobbler a witness in the case over the rejection of Delhi and and is now taking the help of Punjab tableaux of the upcomits Lucknow counterparts to ing Republic Day parade. Delhi Health Minister Saurabh During its visit, the team recov-Bharadwaj on Friday alleged ered a pair of shoes, shoe soles the Delhi and Punjab tableaux and a ruler for measuring shoe have been left out of the size from Sagar's house in upcoming Republic Day parade Ramnagar in Lucknow's due to the BJP's "dirty politics" Alambagh, according to the to exact revenge on the AAP which is in power in the capi-A diary and some books on tal and the border state. The freedom fighter Bhagat Singh BJP hit back, terming it shamewere also recovered from his ful that the AAP, which is in power in both States, was Sagar's family has told the investigators that he admires politicising a decision taken by a special committee. BJP leader Bhagat Singh. His social media Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the profile also showed that he used real reason for the rejection of the tableau was that it had the to share content related to photographs of the chief min-ister and Arvind Kejriwal. "The Bhagat Singh and Cuban Marxist revolutionary leader real reason for rejection of Earlier, police said the accused Punjab Tableau is that it prominently showed pictures of persons in the Parliament secu-Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant rity breach case wanted to replicate Bhagat Singh's act of Mann rather than Mai Bhago throwing bombs inside the Ji or martyrs! Mann Sahab is Central Assembly during shamelessly lying; and worst is



sovereignty in the feet of Kejriwal. You made Punjab the slave of Kejriwal in the name of change," Sirsa said. Earlier, addressing a press conference, Bharadwaj said the Centre has rejected Delhi's tableaux for three years now. The last time Delhi's tableau featured in the Republic Day parade was in 2021. It showcased the Shahjahanabad redevelopment project, according to officials.

Bharadwaj said Delhi's tableau this year would have showcased

Mohalla Clinic model."The tableau of Delhi, which is the capital of the country, was rejected by the Centre. Its tableau was rejected for the 2022 parade and then for the 2023 parade and now it has been rejected again for the 2024 parade," the minister said. The theme of the Republic Dav parade was 'Nari Shakti' in 2023 and it is 'Viksit Bharat' for

the 2024 parade, he said. "No one can say it's a design competition. The Centre had given us some suggestions and

(into our tableau proposal) and if it would have given us more suggestions, we would have included them too. Our tableau would have showcased schools and the Mohalla Clinic model," he added.

Bharadwaj said it's not a coincidence that Punjab's tableau proposal was also rejected."The Centre is doing this to exact revenge on the AAP," he charged. On Wednesday, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had attacked the Centre over the non-inclusion of his state's tableau in the parade and accused it of discrimination. Eighty per cent of the selected states are the ones ruled by the BJP, he alleged. In response, Delhi BJP secretary Bansuri Swaraj said that a highly specialised commit-tee of specialists had taken decisions on the proposals for the Republic Day parade tableaux received from State tableaux received from State governments and departments. "It is shameful that

without telling reasons for

rejection of their tableau pro-

posals the AAP leaders are

going to jail," she added. Meanwhile, officials aware of the matter said there is a wellestablished system for the selection for tableaux for participation in the parade. "The tableaux proposals are evaluated in series of meetings of the expert committee comprising of eminent persons in the field of art, culture, painting, sculpture, music, architecture, choreography, etc... Due to time allotted for tableaux in the overall duration of the parade, shortlisting of tableaux is done by the expert committee which leads to participation of the best tableau in the parade," an official said, declining to be

named. 'Moreover, the states/UTs not being selected for the parade are being invited to showcase their tableaux at the Bharat Parv at Red Fort from January

LG okays amendment to compensation scheme for mob violence victims

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved amendment in the Delhi Victims Compensation Scheme 2018, enabling the payment of ex gratia to the victims of mob violence and lynching. The definition of victim' has been amended to include guardian or legal heir of a person who has suffered loss or injury or death as a result of the offence including the offence of mob violence and mob lynching. According to Raj Niwas offi-

cial, in case of mob violence mob lynching, the interim relief to the victim, including the interim compensation shall be provided within 30 days from the date of offence and the limit of Rs. 50,000/for interim compensation shall not be applicable to the cases of such victims but the upper limits of compensation provided under the schedule to the scheme shall continue

to apply. The Supreme Court had in 2018 directed state governments to prepare such a scheme within a month but the Delhi government took five years to submit a proposal, they added.

According to the changes in the scheme, the definition of 'victim' has been amended to include the guardian or legal heir of a person who has suffered loss or injury or death as a result of mob violence and mob lynching.

Interim relief has been proposed to be paid to the vic-



tim(s) or the next of the kin of the deceased within 30 days of the incident, the official said.

Delhi The Victims Compensation Scheme, 2018 was notified with the approval of the then LG vide notification dated 27.06.2019, but the issue of compensation for lynching and mob violence was not covered in it.

on July 17, 2018 that state governments will prepare within one month of the judgement a lynching/mob violence compensation scheme under the provisions of Section 357A of the CrPC.

sation, the state governments shall give due regard to the nature of bodily injury, psy-chological injury and loss of

earnings. In terms of loss of earnings, it shall also take into account loss of opportunities of employment and education and expenses incurred on account of legal, medical and other sufferings due to mob lynching/ mob violence, the official said.

Trial runs of Namo Bharat between Duhai, Meerut South begins



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The apex court had directed

target.

The court had given the guidelines that in the scheme for computation of compen-

testing to assess the fitness of

ment's. In this phase, the train will be operated in the entire

rapidly in this section.

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation length at various speeds gradually. Initially, manual opera-(NCRTC) has commenced the tion is carried out under the trial runs of Namo Bharat Train Control Management System. As the process advances, tests will be contrains between Duhai to Meerut South, an additional 25 km long section ahead of the ducted to evaluate the inte-Priority Section within a mere grated performance of the train 80 days of beginning opera-tions in the Priority Section. and verify its coordination with different subsystems such as Signalling, Platform Screen Doors (PSDs) and Overhead This is a significant milestone as it marks a major step towards the operationalization supply system, it said. of the entire 42 km of Delhi -The 25 km stretch between Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS cor-Duhai and Meerut South Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS) ridor in near future ahead of station is the next segment of

According to a statement issued the RRTS corridor set to be operationalized for the public by the NCRTC, to commence after the Priority Section. This the trial run, the Overhead section encompasses a total of 4 stations: Murad Nagar, Modi Equipment (OHE) was charged with a from the Murad Nagar Nagar North, Modi Nagar South, and Meerut South. In Receiving Sub Station (RSS). The electric traction, previously June, the construction of the charged up to Modinagar viaduct up to Meerut South was completed with the instal-lation of the last span. South station, has now been extended up to Meerut South station. The trials were already Subsequently, various con-struction works, including track laying, OHE installation, ongoing up to Modi Nagar South station. "During the trial runs, Namo Bharat trains are undergoing signaling and telecom, and electrical, have been advancing

all sub systems and equip-

Atishi interacts with 30 MBA students from Wharton School

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Education Minister Atishi on Friday interacted with 30 MBA students from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. The focus of the interaction centered on the unique gover-nance model employed by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi, under the leadership of Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal. The Wharton School students met Education Minister Atishi under the Global Immersion Program, designed to provide them with an understanding of the economic, cultural, and geopolitical dynamics shaping the global economy. Atishi provided a captivating insight into the evolution of AAP and elaborated on the transformative journey of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, capturing the attention of the Wharton students.

During the interaction, Education Minister Atishi shared the profound impact of AAP's unvielding political will to enhance the lives of the common man. She cited AAP as a compelling example that reaf-firms the idea that even 'a common man' can alter the course of the world with an unwavering commitment to public welfare. She said, "Despite various

struggles and hindrances in governance, the welfare of peo-ple who voted for the government has always been the priority of Kejriwal Government. Over the past 9 years, the Delhi Government has ensured



that children in the national capital get the best of the best education, people get hasslefree access to high-quality healthcare, free water and power supply round the clock. These are basic rights of peo-ple to lead a dignified life."

The Education Minister added, 'These successful transformations were made possible due to the unshakable political will of the government, which aimed to bring about change in Delhi. As a result, Delhi's government schools have become a source of inspiration for numerous global reforms in the education system. The Mohalla Clinics are trusted as a highly impactful healthcare system, ensuring the accessibility of quality healthcare to people for free?

Minister Atishi further emphasized that major global trans-formation is possible when a surge of educated individuals enters politics with a resolute dedication to serving the people. This, she asserted, is the key to unlocking a new era of political leadership on a global scale.

During the interaction, Atishi also shared her journey from a party volunteer to the only woman minister in the Delhi Cabinet with the students.

BSES to energise 1,000 rooftop solar installations in 2024-25

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Electricity provider BSES has energised 6,000 rooftop solar installations so far and the discom plans to energise over 1,000 more connections in the 2024-25 financial year. The highest number of rooftop solar connections are in the domestic segment (3,650), followed by commer-cial (1,087), educational (939), industrial (85) and others (129). According to BSES officials, more than 100 residential societies have opted for rooftop solar connections, helping consumers save over Rs 110 crore annually. BSES

plans to energise 1000+ rooftop solar connections with a connected load of around 17-20 MW. "The response to roof top

solar net metering has been very incredibly encouraging in the BSES area. Consumers across categories, including residential, educational (and schools) and commercial establishments have warmed up to roof top solar net metering in big-way," a BSES state-ment said. The highest energised load is in the commercial segment with 57 Megawatt peak (MWp), fol-lowed by the educational segment with 45 MWp, industri-al with 6 MWp and others with 11 MWp.

"If we analyse the annual savings accruing to the consumers, savings are over Rs 110 crore annually. By opting for roof-top solar, consumers in the commercial category are estimated to save around Rs 49 crore annually, followed by educational institutions

(Rs 30 crore), residential consumers (Rs 26 crore), Other (Rs 7 crore) and Industrial (Rs

5 crore)," BSES said. BSES has energised 'roof-top net metering' connections ranging from a sanctioned load of 1 KW to over 4,000 KW. Consumers have begun to see the benefits of roof top solar net metering and how it reduces their electricity bills," the statement said.

Rooftop solar net metering is an ideal method to reduce electricity bills and contribute to the betterment of the environment.

Every KW of rooftop solar generates about 100 to 120 units of electricity every month and the cost of the system can be recovered in around four years. A typical 10 KW of rooftop solar connection with a monthly consumption of 1,200 units every month can save around Rs 82,000 annually, the officials

said. "Besides helping BSES in meeting its renewable pur-chase obligation (RPO), the pioneering initiative will help the discom minimise overloading issues in congested areas, especially during the peak summer months," the BSES said.

"For consumers, roof top solar net metering is an ideal method to reduce electricity bills and do their bit for the environment," they said

On the other hand, Tata Power-DDL energised 2,412 rooftop solar connections and the solar load touches 63.3 MWp, helping consumers save approximately Rs 45-50 crore annually.

nation 04



Modi refutes Opposition charges on jobs, inflation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said despite heavy odds and global crises, India showed remarkable resilience to keep inflation under control. He apparently refuted Opposition allegations of lack

of jobs and rising inflation. Making his point in an interview to a private television channel, Modi said "Let's put allegations aside and discuss the facts. Despite two years of a once-in-a-century pandemic and global conflicts disrupt-ing global value chains and even causing recessionary pressures across the world, India has shown remarkable resilience.

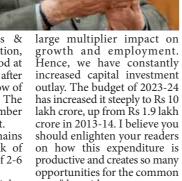
"Despite heavy odds, global crises, supply chain break-downs and geopolitical ten-sions impacting global prices of basic items, average inflation from 2014-15 to 2023-24 (till November) was only 5.1 per cent, compared to 8.2 per cent during the previous 10 years (2004-'14). Which is higher, inflation of 5.1 per cent or 8.2 per cent?" he added.

As per the latest data by the



Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, India's retail inflation stood at 5.55 per cent in November after falling to a four-month low of 4.8 per cent in October. The food inflation for November registered at 8.70 per cent. The inflation figure remains within the Reserve Bank of India's acceptable range of 2-6

per cent. On the charge of lack of jobs, Prime Minister Modi said providing employment to the youth has been the topmost priority of his government. "It is well-known that investments in infrastructure have a



man," he said. Prime Minister Modi also said infrastructure creation is happening at a "never-seen-before pace, and all sectors are doing much better than how they were 10 years ago"

Former Navymen case: India to decide next steps after reviewing Qatar court ruling, legal opinion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

India on Friday said its next steps in the case relating to eight former Indian Navy personnel will be decided after examining the ruling of a Qatari court and discussions with the legal team handling the matter.

Qatar's Court of Appeals has commuted the death sen-tences handed out to the Navy veterans by another court earlier.

'The interests of Indians and their family members is our foremost concern," Ministry External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing. "We will be discussing the next possible steps with the legal team and the family members," he added. Bagchi said he would not like to say anything more as the matter is sensitive.

The Indian nationals, who were working with Doha-based Al Dahra Global Technologies, were taken into custody in August 2022 in a case of alleged espionage. While the charges against them were not made public by



Qatari authorities, they were sentenced to death by the Gulf country's Court of First Instance in Óctober this year. The private firm provided training and other services to Qatar's armed forces and security agencies. India had moved the Court of Appeal in Qatar against the death sentence last month.

Commuting of the death sentence by an appellate court in Qatar comes weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, on the side-lines of

CoP28 summit in Dubai. Details of the conversation were never made public, but there was speculation this issue was raised. After the meeting on December 1, Modi said they discussed the well-being of the Indian community in Qatar.

The eight Indians were awarded death penalty in October reportedly on charges of espionage. The eight Indians are Purnendu Tiwari, Sugunakar Pakala, Amit Nagpal, and Sanjeev Gupta, who are Commanders, and Navtej Singh Gill,

Rainath underlines

civil servants role

Birendra Kumar Verma, and

Saurabh Vasisht, who are Captains. The eight is Sailor Ragesh Gopakumar. We have noted the verdict today of the Court of Appeal of Qatar in the Dahra Global case, in which the sentences have been reduced. The detailed judgement is await-ed," ministry of external affairs (MEA)said in a statement here on Thursday. "Our Ambassador to Qatar and other officials were present at the Court of Appeal today, along with family members. We have stood by them since the beginning of the matter, and we will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance. We will also continue to take up the matter with the Qatari authorities," it added.

Noting that a detailed judgment was awaited, the ministry said it was in close touch with the legal team as well as the family members to decide on the next steps. "Due to the confidential and sensitive nature of proceedings of this case, it would not be appropriate to make any further comment at this juncture," the MEA said.

Shah Instagram following crosses 10 million mark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's followers on Instagram have crossed 10 million (one-crore) mark, with BJP sources saying their number sources saying their hum-bers saw a steep rise following the passage in Parliament of some landmark bills, including three legislations which overhaul criminal codes and laws. Shah, a key strategist of the party, has over 34.1 million on followers on X, 10.7 million on Instagram and 15 million on Facebook, and he has been the most followed politician on social media after Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

They noted that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, seen as the most visible opposition leader, has 6.8 million followers on Facebook, 5.1 million on Instagram and 24.7 million on X. Party leaders said Shah's following has seen a consistent rise after he became the BJP president in 2014 following its massive victory as it for the first time won a majority in Lok Sabha on its own with Modi as the prime ministerial face. He was the BJP president as the party was re-elected in 2019 with a bigger majority, they noted.

797 new Covid cases reported in 24 hours, 165 JN.1 in one month

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In just a month, India has reported as many as 165 cases of Covid-19 sub-variant JN.1 while 797 new cases of Covid 19 recorded in a single day is the highest in 225 days taking the tally of active cases of the infection to 4,091, as per the data available in the last 24 hours. Kerala reported the highest number of JN.1 variant cases with the majority of patients being home isolated, said official sources. With one case of JN.1 sub variant, Manipur, on Friday too joined the list of States reporting the mutated version of the Covid-19.

At the same time, five new fatalities due to Covid19-- two from Kerala and one each from Maharashtra, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu -have been reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am. The country had recorded 865 new cases on May 19.

Ahead of the New Year celebrations across the country, both Centre and state governments are keeping fingers crossed, hoping that there is no surge in the new Covid variant JN.1 cases. India had reported the first JN.1 case on November 16 which now stands at 165 cases.

According to reports, Manipur registered a fresh case of Covid-19 after a prolonged period without new infections. The infected individual, who hails from Paomata in Senapati district, had travelled from Delhi to Dimapur by ently from Dimapur to Senapati by road. The exact virus variant remains undetermined, as samples have been sent for genome sequencing to ascertain more details, said the officials from the State.



ed 7,344 cases of Covid-19 JN.1 subvariant from 41 countries.

The number of daily Covid-19 cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5, but the infections have again moved northward up after emergence of the new variant and cold weather conditions.

As per the latest updates, India reported 797 new Covid-19 cases and the active cases tally stand at 4,000 in the last 24 hours

Meanwhile, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) of Delhi said that it has issued guidelines for Covid-19 suspected or positive cases that will be reported at hospitals following the sudden surge in the cases of

Murmu gives assent to Bill for CEC, ECs appointment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI HI

President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to a bill that seeks to put in place a mechanism for the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner(CEC) and other Election Commissioners(EC), according to a government notification issued Friday.

Chief Election The Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, has provisions to set up a search committee chaired by the law minister and two other persons not below the rank of secretary, to prepare a panel of five persons for con-sideration of the selection committee for appointment as CEC or ECs

through an eight-step registra-tion process. This can now be The bill also has provisions for a Selection Committee, chaired the prime minister the opposition and a Union minister, to make recommendations to the President for appointment of CEC and other ĒĈs

in shaping new, emerging India PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday underscored the critical role of young civil servants in shaping the new and emerging India and exhorted the future land administrators to continuously hone their skills and adapt to the evolving needs of the modern era.

He made these assertions when ten officer trainees of Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES) 2023 batch called on him here, defence ministry officials said.

Rajnath emphasised that impecable integrity in all walks of life is the most important prerequisite for the officers, highlighting its positive impact on streamlining service delivery to the people. There should not be any blot on the career of any civil servant, he said.

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Dhankhar rejects request to appoint Chadha as party interim leader in RS, AAP denies report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $R_{
m Jagdeep}$ Dhankhar has turned down the AAP's request to appoint Raghav Chadha as the party's interim leader in the Upper House. Aam Aadmi Party sources, however, said Rajya Sabha officials have suggested some correction in the letter sent to the Chairman for nominating Chadha as "interim leader" and the same would be addressed. They also denied reports that Chairman has turned down the party's

request. Earlier this month, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal had requested Rajya Sabha chairman to appoint Chadha as the interim leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the Rajya Sabha as floor leader Sanjay Singh was in judicial custody. According to sources, Dhankhar in a letter to subject to 'The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act. 1998' and the Rules made thereunder. The request, not being in conformity to applicable legal regime, is not being acceded to.

AAP sources, however, told news agency PTI the request (to appoint Raghav Chadha as the party's leader in the Rajya Sabha) has not been declined. "Some corrections were sought which will be addressed," AAP sources told PTI.

Earlier this month, the AAP leadership, in a letter to Dhankar, requested the appointment of Chadha as the leader of the party in the Upper House of Parliament in the absence of Sanjay Singh. "I would like to propose the name of Mr. Raghav Chadha as the interim party leader in the Rajya Sabha until further changes are deemed necessary. We request that this change be allowed as per the rules and procedures of the Rajya Sabha," Arvind Kejriwal had written to Dhankar. The letter claimed that due to "health issues", Sanjay Singh was unable to discharge the role. AAP MP Sanjay Singh is currently behind bars in the Delhi

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified JN.1 as a separate "variant of interest" given its rapidly increasing spread but said it poses a "low" global public health risk. As of December 16, the world health agency report-

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 over 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent, according to the ministry's website.

The President also granted assent to the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, to replace a British-era law gov-

Inte anu Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said responding to the discussion on the bill in the Lok Sabha on December 21. He said newspapers and peri-

erning the publishing industry

and simplify the process of reg-

The Bill replaces the Press and

Registration of Books Act of

1867. Rajya Sabha passed the

"This bill is simple, smart and

has a simultaneous process for

registration of newspapers and

periodicals. Earlier newspa-

pers or magazines had to pass

done at the click of a button,"

istration of periodicals.

Bill on August 3.

odicals will now be able to get registered within two months as against the two to three years required earlier.

lifelong learning, Rajnath urged the officer trainees to keep refining their knowledge and competencies. He encouraged them to approach every challenge with innovation, integrity and unwavering commitment for the development of the nation.

mey cas Chadha is one of the youngest members of the Rajya Sabha representing the northern state of Punjab. The AAP has a total of 10 MPs in the Upper House currently. The AAP has the fourth-largest strength in Rajya Sabha after the BJP, the Congress and the TMC.

PUBLIC NOTICE LOSS OF ID CARD

This is to bring to the notice of the eneral public that one ID card of Mr. Sourabh Vishwakarma issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. Having ID Card No. 2338689 has been found missing and/or lost on 28-12-2023. Anyone, who find the said ID Card, is requested to return the said ID Card to The Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No. 7, Community Centre, S.D. Tower, Sector-8, Rohini, N. Delhi-85.

Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorized person holding the said ID Card No. 2338689. Please take further notice that anybody

making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any

Date: 28.12.2023 ---Sd---Place : Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE It is Publically notified that the Residential Flat no. 704, on 7th Floor, Tower-O, Amrapali Princely Estate, Plot no. GH-02/A, Sec-76, Noida, allottee of Mrs. Smt. Disha Mittal Wo Shri. Nitin Mittal & Shri. Nitin Mittal S/o Dr. C.M. Mittal R/o E-104, Mansarovar Gharden, New Delhi-15, had sold on the basis of G.P.A. which was Ibad solid on the basis of G.P.A. which was duly registered on dated 01/06/2013, in the name of Dr. C.m. Mittal (Chandra Mohan Mittal) S/o Late Shugan Chand R/o E-104, Mansarovar Gharden, New Delhi-15, and agreement is not execute abbe Because agreement to sell is not registered so it is Publically notified that the transfer of the property bearing Residential Flat no. 704, On 7th Floor, Tower-O, Amrapali Princely Estate, Plot No. GH-02/A, Sec -76, Noida, is going to be transfer through G.P.A. in the name of Shri. Balwant Rai S/o Shri. Gorakh Nath Rai & Smt. Rajani W/o Shri. Balwant rai both R/o Dakhin tola, Dumraon, Bakshar bihar, if some one has any objection

bun two Damin tola, Durindun, Barshard, bihar, If some one han any objection he/she file his/her objection along-with the sufficient proof in the Group Housing Department of the Noida Authority with in 15 days from the date of publication of the police this notice.

Public Notice This is to inform general public that Mrs. Preeti Bhasker has acquired the Flat no. 47, area measuring 96.6 sq. mtrs., on Third floor, Type HIG, situated in the layout plan of Delhi University Staff Co-operative Group Housing Apartments at Plot no. 19, Sector 9, Rohini, Delhi -110085 vide Sale Deed dated 3.03.2008, and the same was Duly legistered with Sub- Registrar- VI C, as Doc lo. 3463, Book No. I, Vol No. 2079, Pages 19-27 on 03.03.2008. Above said owner has misplaced the Share Certificate/.etter, Conveyance Deed dated 25.01.2008 executed by POI through DDA in favour of Mrs. Savitri inrespect of said property and the same was Duly Registered with Sub-Registrar- VII Delhi, as Doc No. 1685, Book No. I, Vol No. 2838, Page 52-53, on 25.01.2008. Anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manaaer of Bandhan Bank Ltd. 7 on 03.03.2008

Manager of Bandhan Bank Ltd. bove said owner is availing loan on abov
 Shri. Balwant rail
 Above said owner is availing loan on above said property from Bandhan Bank Ltd. & in as any objection case anyone has any objection. The same may be raised within 15 days of this publication to Group Housing Mr. Pramod Kumar Singh (Advocate), Law Source, Unit No. S-2-U, 2nd Floor, built on Plot no. 4 and 5, Anasal Utility Commercial Center, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 or contact at +91 9560309909 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Aditya Kumar who is purchasing the DDA MIG Flat No. 242-A, on Ground floor in Pocket-A, situated Numar who is purchasing the DDA MIG Flat No. 242-A., on Ground floor in Pocket-A, situated in the layout plan of Trilokpuri, Residential Scheme also Known as Mayur Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi-110091 from Mr. Sandeep Sagar son of Late Prem Sagar Vide Sale Deed dated 07.10.2021, duly registered as Document No.8201, in Addl. Book No.1, Volume No.9988 on pages 27 to 34 dated 07.10-2021, SRO-VIII New Delhi and same to be financed by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited., That, Probate of Regd. Will dated 10.07.2014 Passed by competent of court in favour fMr. Sanjay Sehgal and SMC of deceased Mr. Bimla Sehgal have been lost/mispatce/or not available, if any Person having any type of claim/right/itel/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lienetc. Lucem Legal LUP Office No.G-03, at Ground Floor, on Plot No.D-61, Sector-2,Nolda, UP-201301, Contact#0120-4130438

PUBLIC NOTICE

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)

For Diwan and Company LLP

Mobile No. 9818399999

NOTICE is hereby given that Achla Bhatnagar, Atul Bhatnagar & Samir

Bhatnagar (Hereinafter called the Seller/s) claims to be owner and in possession of Entire Ground & Mezzanine Floor of Prop. PUBLIC NOTICE no 83 in Block D in Vivek Vihar, Delhi (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of law of inheritance and has also got NOTICE is hereby given that M/s Vera Enterprises claims to be owner & in possession of Third Floor with roof of the surviving member certificate issued from DM office, Vivek Vihar Dated 29.08.2023 Prop. No. 245, in Refugees House Building Co-opeartive Society Ltd. known as Tarun Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-34. stating that Sellers are the Only Survivin Legal Heirs of Late Parmatma Swaru Bhatnagar & Said Parmatma Swaru (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue ofSale Certificate Executed by M/s Bhatnagar was the owner of said property b virtue of Conveyance Deed Dt. 17.04.2014 reg vide Doc No. 5583 & said Seller/s being HDFC Bank Ltd. Dated 24.12.2021 Doc. No. 13344 and Said M/s Vera Enterprises has agreed to sell the said Property to Kiran the only legal heirs of Late Parmatma Swaru thatnagar has agreed to sell the said property to **Navodaya Ghai** & Said Mi Aggarwal And Said Kiran Aggarwal has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients Axis Bank Ltd., Janak Puri Branch, Navodaya Ghai has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients Axis Bank Limited, Axis House Sector 128, Noida U.P. any person/s having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, any person/s having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting otherwise howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 14 days locumentary evidence at the address nentioned below within 7 days from the date from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons ereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall of such person or persons will be considered o have been waived and/or abandoned and proceed with the disbursement of loan and our client shall proceed with the disbursemen of loan and subsequent creation of mortgag subsequent creation of mortgage in respect n respect thereof thereo Vishal Diwan (Advocate)

For Diwan and Company LLP H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19 H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19 Mobile No. 9818399999

Defence Secretary inaugurates new design and test facility at HAL

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane on Friday inaugurated a new design and test facility at Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru. The AERDC is currently involved in the design and development of several new engines including two strategic engines - Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine (HTFE) of 25 kN thrust for powering trainers, UAV's, twin engine small fighter aircraft or regional jets and Hindustan Turbo Shaft Engine (HTSE) of 1200 kN thrust for powering light and medium weight helicopters (3.5 to 6.5 tonnes in single/ twin engine configu-ration), officials said here. The new state-of-the-art facility, spanning over 10,000 sq. meters, houses special machines, advanced setups leveraging on computational tools, in-house fabrication facility and two test beds for testing HTFE-25 and one testbed each for testing HTSE-1200 and upcoming JV engine for IMRH to be co-developed by

Safran, France and HAL. In addition, the newly developed facility has set-ups for testing Air producer of Jaguar, should focus on mastering



changing," he said.

Highlighting the role of

unmanned aircraft in future

warfare, the Defence

Secretary encouraged the

HAL to collaborate with other

private companies to develop

new platforms. He inspected

the manufacturing range of

various engines and test beds

and also paid a visit to HAL's

Chairman and Managing Director (Addl. Charge) of

HAL C B Ananthakrishnan

said "The development of

this facility marks a key mile-

stone in HAL's growth trajec-

tory. It is a testimony of our

commitment towards achiev-

ing 'Aatmanirbharta' in aero-

Aerospace Division.

Gas Turbine Starter Unit (GTSU) - 110 M2 and 127E of Light Combat Aircraft, Auxiliary Power Units of Indian Multi-Role Helicopter and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, Gas Turbine Electrical Generator (GTEG)-60 for An-32 aircraft. Set-ups to carry out various critical tests for engine components and Line Replacement Units (LRUs) have also been established within the new facility. Hailing the work being done by HAL, Aramane stated that the government trusts the capability of the Defence PSU to deliver and make the counself-reliant. 'Manufacturing sector is the future of the country and in the coming decades, the HAL

technologies for all types of engine design and developaircraft. Think ahead as the ment. entire paradigm of warfare is

The Centre, established in the 1960s, holds the unique distinction of being the only design house that has developed test beds for engines of both Western and Russian origin. The Centre has successfully developed and certified PTAE-7 engine, the first indigenous turbojet engine of India powering (Unmanned Lakshya Aircraft), Gas Turbine Electrical Generator GTEG-60 for starting An-32 aircraft, Air starter ATS 37 & Air producer for starting Adour-Mk 804E/811 on Jaguar Aircraft and Shakti engine for powering ALH to support Ad804/811 engine of Jaguar aircraft.

APPENDIX IV-A Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforce Rules 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whateve there is" basis on 22.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery o Rs. 14,49,482- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Clarker Streegel and the security of the Secure Action Eighty Two only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00391683, by war Eighty Two only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00391683, by Way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 26.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 27.12.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SANTBEER and ARUN VAID. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 8,00,000'- (Rupees Eight Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 80,000/- (Rupees Eighty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS OF THE RESIDENTIAL PLOT BEARING NUMBER A-1/199 HAVING COVERED AREA OF 36 SQUARE FEET LE 30.09 SQUARE METERS SITUATED IN RESIDENTIAL COLONY KNOWN AS "D. L. F DILSHAD EXTENSION-II", VILLAGE BRAHMPUR URF BHOPURA, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, GHAZIABAD - 201005, UTTAR PRADESH THE PLOT IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:-

EAST	:	PLOT NUMBER A-1/198,	NORTH	:	ROAD 25 FEET WIDE,
WEST	:	PLOT NUMBER A-1/200,	SOUTH	:	OTHER PLOT

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

Date : 27.12.2023 Authorized office Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited Place : GHAZIABAD



Raut inks Congress on seat sharing talks claim *Picici Bank* Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, San Seat Sharing talks of the loans facility to the mark and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A no

PTI MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Friday said his party would contest 23 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra, and the seat-sharing talks with the Congress have to "start from zero" as the latter had `not won any seat' in the previous elections, a statement that drew a sharp response from the state Congress. The majority of the Sena MPs are now with the Eknath Shinde faction and the Congress now happens to be the biggest party in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance, state Congress leaders Sanjay Nirupam and Milind Deora pointed out. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, Sharad Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party and Congress are part of the MVA. Speaking to reporters, Raut said the Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders, including Thackeray, have been holding talks with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, party leaders Sonia

Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and general secretary K C Venugopal over seat-sharing. "We have said that we have been contesting 23 seats in Maharashtra and (will also contest) Dadra Nagar Haveli," Raut said, adding that "the Shiv Sena is the biggest party" in Maharashtra while the Congress is a national party. The current MP of Dadra Nagar Haveli is from the Sena. "We have decided that the seats won by us (MVA allies) will be discussed later. The Congress does not figure in it as it has not won any seat in Maharashtra. So talks with the Congress have to start from zero in the state," Raut further said. Asked about state Congress leaders pointing out that the Sena is no longer a united party, Raut said the Congress did not split up, and yet it lost the recent assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. "A party is tested on the ground. Our party workers are with us.

Even if our party split, we won



PUBLIC NOTICE

nation 05

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 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.

Uddhav Thackeray camp and	of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known hereby notified by way of this public notice.	addresses, nowever it was not served	and hence the	y are
joined the Shinde faction, he said. "They don't even have a guarantee as to whether the	Sr. Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ No. (Loan Account Number) & Address	of Socured Accet		NPA Date
remaining MPs will stay with them," Nirupam added. Milind	1. Parveen., Flat No. 23, Jay Ambey Appts Mayur Vihar Phase 3, Mayur Vihar, F	tudio Appartment Unit No 1104 loor No 11, Situated At Plot C06	01/11/2023/ 03 Rs. 2	3/08/ 2023
Deora, another Congress leader from the state, tweeted that any alliance in Maharashtra cannot	A/c:- TBGHZ00006566444, 0	Delta 1, Kaveri City Center Pari Chowk Greater Noida Dadri Noida Gautam Buddh Nagar UP- 201310	45,68,584/- Rs. 1,32,141/-	
materialize without consultation with the state Congress leader-	Colony, Aligarh Uttar Pradesh- 202001	ilat No 473, Plot No Gh 01 Alpha Ii, ower 4, Alphala Sehkari Awas Samiti td. Greater Noida- 201308		2/01/ 2010
ship. Deora, a former Mumbai MP who is now a joint treasurer of	3. Satish Kumar Mishra, Abha Mishra, 704, Jasmine Tower, 7th Floor, Green Valley	Jnit No-506, Zinnia Tower On 5th loor, Green Valley, Omaxe Rps	2/12/2023 29	9/09/ 2023
the Andheri assembly bypoll after Eknath Shinde rebelled tell Sanjay Raut that any alliance	Kund, Haryana, Faridabad- 121009 A/c:- LBFDB00001796400,	Colony Sjk, Situated At Sector 41-42, Residential Colony, Urban Estate aridabad Haryana- 121009	Rs. 1,47,813.33/- Rs. 45,136/-	
and you (the Congress) won the against Thackeray. cannot move forward without Kasba Peth assembly bypoll The NCP won four seats in consultation with the Maha- with our support," Raut said. Maharashtra in the 2019 Lok rashtra Congress leadership." He	No-506, Zinnia Tower On 5th Floor, Green	Km 72-802, Kosmos Apartment Situated At Our Project Known As	02/12/2023 29 Rs. 20	9/09/ 2023
The Congress, nevertheless, Sabha polls and the Congress also objected to Raut's con- remains an important part of only one. The Congress's lone tention that despite losing 40	Sector 41-42, Residential Colony, Urban Estate Haryana Faridabad- 121009 A/c:-	Vish Town Jaypee Greens At Sector 29 &134, Noida Uttar Pradesh Ioida- 201301	16,59,207.3/ Rs.24,697/-	
the MVA, and the alliance part- ners will contest the coming elections together, he said. In the very very congress leader Sanjay in the MVA alliance. "Raut says	LBDEL00001843826, LBDEL00002096848 5. Randhir Singh, Manju Gautam, Mcf-902 F Gali-57, Faridabad- 121005, 1	ilat No-A6-1504, Tower A-6, Floor- 4, Habitat 78, Sector-78, Faridabad-		4/07/
2019 general elections, the undi- vided Shiv Sena under Uddhav ing the Shiv Sena (UBT) cannot Congress should begin from Thackeray's leadership — in win any seat on its own. It needs zero. He is talking about a	A/c:- LBFDB00005138379	21005 (Along with 1 Two Vheeler Parking) Prop No. 71 / 115, Tihar-II, Colony,	14,82,866/-	6/05/
alliance with the BJP — contest- the Congress and vice versa, said party which is the largest oppo- ed 23 seats and won 18. It later the former MP. Of the 18 MPs sition party in the assembly and	Kumari, 71 115 Prem Nagar, Near	(nown as Prem Nagar, Janakpuri, DELHI 110058 (With Roof Rights)		2022
broke off the ties with the BJP, of the Shiv Sena, more than a leading the opposition bloc (at and in 2022 the Sena itself split dozen MPs have deserted the the national level)," Deora said.	Indrapuram, Ghaziabad- 201014	ilat No. 502, 5th Floor, CIPL Enclave, Bituated At Plot No. 13/2 Shiv Ratanpur, Near Ram Nagar Colony		7/08/ 2023
Sandamam rediscovers	8. Abhishek Paul, Meera Paul, D 44 Gali No. F	Bajardiha Varanasi- 221005 Flat/Unit Bearing No. 2924/SKA Greenarch, 28th Floor, Tower Tulip		3/08/ 2023
	A/c:- LBDEL00005326322	Situated at Plot No. GH 05 B, Sector 6 B G B Nagar Greater Noida 201310 Iat No. Mj/a-1105, 11th Floor, Mehak	36,43,374/-	3/09/
Sangamam rediscovers age-old Tamil-Kashi link	Asharam Road, Saddiq Nagar, Sihani Noor Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad- 201003 A/c:- LBGHZ00005640306, LBGHZ00005676953			2023
Cultural performances, temple visits and aca- demic dialogues on the banks of the Ganga	Chakrasenpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Noida 203208 A/c:- LBNOD00005993492,	Sector-omicron 01, Greater Noida, Sautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh,	Rs.28,59,865/- 2 Rs.45,566/- Rs.49,422/-	7/09/ 2023
gave delegates attending the Kashi Tamil Sangamam here an opportunity to rediscover the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi —	LBNOD00006297333, LBNOD00006303529, LBNOD00006496559	loida- 201307	Rs.1,12,937/-	
two of the country's ancient seats of learning. The second edition of the sangamam, organised by the Union education ministry, began on December 17 and will conclude on Saturday. It	13th Floor, Tower-T-2, Bestech Park View F Apartment, Sector-3, Palam Vihar, Sarai F	ilat No-1302, 13th Floor, Tower-T-2, Park View Residency, Sector-3, Palam Vihar, Sarai Alawardi, Iaryana, Gurgaon- 122017		3/09/ 2023
is being attended by 1,400 delegates from Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry. "The visits to ghats and	12. Geeta., Gulshan Kumar, H No. 182, Marla 4, Model Town, Haryana Gurgaon- 122001	lat No. B-903, 9th Floor, Tower-b, he Rise, Ramprastha City, Sector- 7d, Khasra No. 225, 226, 228,		3/09/ 2023
temples in Kashi and Prayagraj It has been a mes- merising experience. Each place has a huge sig- nificance for people from Tamil Nadu, and the	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	79/229/2, Haryana Gurgaon 122001 lat No. T-B/2203, 22nd Floor, Tower- , Paras Dews, Sector- 106, Dwarka	04/12/2023 03 Rs. 20	3/09/ 2023
confluence of cultures is not a new phenomenon," looking forward to visiting AyodhyaI will def- Satish Raj, a chemistry teacher from Tamil Nadu, who was part of the writers' delegation, said. Chenna said.	South Delhi, New Delhi, Delh- 110019 A/c:- LBDEL00005889467	karaa Song, Gear Godrej Meridian, łaryana, Gurgaon- 122018 ilat No-188-A, Ground Floor, Block-Y,	73,88,307/-	8/09/
The delegates have been divided into groups named after seven sacred rivers of the country and each comprises 200 members — students' group	H. No. I-57, Ground Floor, Sector-22, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh	Sector-12, Near Rajkiya Govt. School, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Jttar Pradesh, Noida- 201301		2023
(Ganga), teachers' group (Yamuna), profession- als' group (Godavari), spiritual group (Saraswati), handicrafts and cuisine gave delegates an insight	15. Puttu Lal, Vimla., C-23, Gh-17, Paschim Vihar, Sunder Vihar, So West, Delhi,	lat No 1205, 12th Floor, Tower B, xtension Situated At Koyal Enclave, Bhaziabad Uttar Pradesh- 201001		3/08/ 2023
group of farmers and artisans (Narmada), writ- ers' group (Sindhu) and group of traders and busi- nessmen (Kaveri). into the rich aspects of Tamil Nadu's and Kashi's art and culture. Cultural programmes, combin- ing the cultures of the two places, organised dur-	16. Manjari Rathi Hooda, Yogender Hooda, B-2/703, Tower No. 9, Silver City, Sector -	Flat No. B-1102, 11th Floor, Tower-B, Blossom Greens, Plot No. Gh-01, Sector-143, Uttar Pradesh,	02/12/2023 08	8/09/ 2023
Raj added that the academic sessions at the Namo ghat here were the most interesting for him.ing the evenings, were a major attraction for the visiting delegates.Trustee at the Kashi Vishwanath temple, KSeminars, discussions and lectures were organ-	A/c:- LBDEL00001907246 N 17. Vijay Kumar Jha, Anupam Kumari, S-610, F	loida- 201304 Plot No. 4256, 2nd Floor, Khasra No. 62/1, 362/2, 363/2, 373/1, 375/1,	02/12/2023 09	9/09/ 2023
Venkata Ramana Ghanapati, said delegates wit- nessed and experienced cuisines and different aspects of lifestyle and culture of the regions. ised to deliberate on literature, ancient texts, phi- losophy, spirituality, music, dance, drama, yoga, ayurveda, handloom and handicrafts as well as	Shakarpur, Nehru Enclave, Delhi-110092 3 A/c:- LBFDB00002117925	75/2, 376/1, 376/2, 377/1, 377/2min, ndraprastha Extention, TP Scheme Io-3, Sector 49, Nawada Koh,	15,37,045/-	
Ghanapati, who is the first trustee of Tamil ori- gin at the temple, said the itinerary of the dele- gates include a two-day outbound trip, a two-day	18. Sachin Verma, Maninder Verma, House No. F 161, Near Gangnath Temple, Munirka, New F	laryana, Faridabad- 121001 ilat No. 1004, 1st Floor, Tower A, Krishna Housing Scheme, Sector 14,		8/09/ 2023
return trip to Varanasi and a one-day trip each to Prayagraj and Ayodhya. "Till now, five delegate groups have visited Kashi," he said. ous disciplines and professions from Tamil Nadu and Kashi are participating in these exchanges. The sangamam aims at rediscovering, reaffirming and	19. Vijay Chawla, Monika Chawla, C 131, First L	ohana, Raisika, Mewat, Haryana, Burgaon- 122001 G. Flat No 49, 2nd Floor, Pocket 1,	02/12/2023 03	3/09/ 2023
More than 42,000 people had registered till celebrating the age-old links between Tamil December 8 to attend the sangamam, of which Nadu and Kashi. The first edition was a month-	Delhi 110064 A/c:- LBDEL00002364134	Block B1, Delhi Devlopment Authority Jousing Scheme 2014, Sector 34, Rohini, Delhi- 110085	9,25,628/-	
1,400 were selected by a committee, according to officials. Raj Chenna, another delegate, said that people from Tamil Nadu participated in it.	Shah, 186/A Gali No. 6, Harijan Basti, Meethapur, Badarpur, South Delhi, Delhi- 110044 A/c:- LBDEL00004953172	ilat No. Sun 1-0407, 4th Floor, Migsum Wynn, Plot No Gh-01b (1), Iear Pari Chowk, Sector Eta-2, Sreater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Ioida- 201307		3/09/ 2023
Manipuri singer Akhu	12, Uttar Pradesh Noida- 201301 A/c:- LBNOD00002439332,	ilat/unit No-1708, 17th Floor, Tower D, Ajnara Le Garden, Plot No-Gh 02, Sector-16, Greater Noida,	Rs. 2 34,12,559/-	0/08/ 2023
abducted, released later	22. Gurdeep Singh Sagu, Kawaljeet Kaur, F	Jttar Pradesh, Noida- 201307 Plot No-171, Block-1, First Floor, ïhar-i, Arya Samaj Mandir, Tagore	Rs. 2	3/09/ 2023
PTI MPHAL "We have received	Tagore Garden, Delhi- 110027 A/c:- LBDEL00004694332,		21,96,706.4/- Rs.2,21,093/- Rs. 1,45,964.1/-	
nenowned Manipuri enowned Manipuri		13 Nagar Nigam Ward No. 20,	05/12/2023 02 Rs. 20	2/09/ 2023
Ksinger and lyricist Akhu Chingangbam was abducted by unidentified gunmen	C 1 7	Current Holding No. 130000575000X1 & Old Holding No. 46 & 177, Jamabandi No. 7/ 2930 & // 2930 Kh Devghar- 834001	97,96,997/-	0/00/
from his residence in Imphal East district on Friday, his family said. However, he was later	Sharma, R 216 H Duplex, Sector- 12, Pratap Vihar Ghaziabad- 201004 A/c:- LBDEL00000376913		Rs. 24 3,56,809.08/-	9/02/ 2016
released unharmed around 20 km away from his house. "A few armed men barged into the abduction was not yet clear but they were disturbed by what happened during the day.	37 D B.B Block, Janakpuri Delhi- 110058 A/c:- LBDEL00004757597, LBDEL00004970226, LBDEL00005384400	DDA MIG Flat No-37-D First Floor, llock- BB, Janak Puri Delhi- 110058 With Scooter Garage)	Rs.46,48, 20 114.86/- Rs. 23,92,641/- Rs.1,99,564/-	2/09/ 2023
Chingangbam's residence in later unharmed at that location Khurai area early on Friday morning and took him to a place around 20 km away," a close rel-	120 B Block New Ashok Nagar Delhi 110096, A/c:- LBNOD00003601625, 0	Iat/ Shop No. Sc-224 2nd Floor, Jalaxy Diamond Plaza Situated At Commercial Plot No. C-1 A Sector 4 Greater Noida (West)- 201307		3/09/ 2022
	Sharma, Mukesh Kumar Sharma, R 216 H Duplex, Sector - 12, Pratap Vihar	louse No. R-216, HIG Duplex, Pratap Vihar, Sector-12, Ghaziabad- 101004	06/12/2023/ 29 Rs. 20 7,77,738.78/-	9/02/ 2016
ihar teachers'	Ghaziabad- 201004, A/c:- LBDEL00000362377, LBNOD00000563607		Rs. 3,38,129.08/- 05/12/2023/ 08	8/08/
ing immediate "corrective mea- levels, are inspecting schools (teachers) should not be the only	H No-TF 69, Abhay Khand- 3, Vardan Appt, 2 Indirapuram, Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad- 201001 A/c:- LBGHZ00002084925, I LBGHZ00002084928 G	1, Word No. 0570, Built Over Vardan partment, Abhay Khand-iii, ndirapuram Tehsil And District Shaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201001	Rs. 20 26,65,877/- Rs. 6,05,521/-	2023
sures" against "unconstitutional" under their jurisdiction as per ones blamed for the mess in the and "autocratic" orders passed by the roster prepared by the education system," he added.	No. 217, Gali No. 15, Sarvodya Nagar, Vijay Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad-	ilat No. 1459, 14th Floor, Block Romano, Type-Mig-3 In Mahagun Mascot Phase-II plot No. GH-05,	Rs. 2 14,59,714/-	2/08/ 2023
the higher education wing of the education department in the department has come out with recent past. department has come out with a slew of stringent measures to an alliance partner of the	LBGHZ00006286031 C 30. Anil Kumar, Geeta Kumari, Flat No 34, 3rd F	Sector-11, Dundahera Uttar Pradesh Shaziabad- 201016 Plot No -493, Pocket -2(B), Sec-18,		8/09/
Governor Rajendra Vishwanathimprove the quality of educationMahagathbandhan governmentArlekar expressed the view thatin the state.in Bihar.the department, by havingReacting to departmental actionEchoing a similar view, senior	Floor, Gautam Buddha University, B 203 Savitri Bai Phule Balika Inter College, Bhagwan Nagar Ashram, Gautam Buddha	′amuna Expressway Authority, Sreater Noida Uttar Pradesh Ioida- 201308	Rs. 24 3,57,339/-	2023
passed such orders, seemed against teachers, Sandeep Saurav, BJP leader Nikhil Anand said, intent on "destroying the acad- an MLA of the Communist "There is no doubt that certain		Plot No.151, Block-F, Sector-9,		7/09/
emic environment in the state". Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) circulars or orders issued by K Both alliance partners of the Liberation, told PTI on Friday, K Pathak are against the demo- Mahagathbandhan government "I must say that certain circulars cratic norms. How come about	L-364, Sf-2, Mig, Pratap Vihar Santosh, Medical College, Sector-12 Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad- 201009	Residential Colony, Sector 9, New /ijay Nagar, Near By Ramleela Ground Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-		2023
in Bihar as well as opposition BJP have demanded immediate withdrawal of the circulars. Of the department pertaining to We are also in favour of reforms sion, dismissal and salary deduc-	32. Ritu Raj, Madhulata Kumari, C-403 Atrium Ramaprastha City, Sector-37D, Gurgaon	01009 Iat No-2006 20th Floor, Future Estate, Situated at Plot No GH-16E, Sector -1		3/08/ 2023
Ever since the department in the education system in the tion? Iaunched intense an inspection state but it should be done with Despite repeated attempts by	122006, A/c:- LBDEL00004933023 C	Greater Noida (West) 201301		rs (as



NJAC never given chance to work: Justice SK Kaul

PTI NEW DELHI

 $F^{\mathrm{ormer}\,\mathrm{Supreme}\,\mathrm{Court}\,\mathrm{judge}}_{\mathrm{Sanjay}\,\mathrm{Kishan}\,\mathrm{Kaul}\,\mathrm{said}\,\mathrm{on}}$ Friday the National Judicial Appointments Commission was never given a chance to work, leading to angst in political circles and friction in the working of the collegium system of judges appointing judges to higher judiciary.

The Narendra Modi government, after coming to power in 2014, got enacted the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act. The NJAC, tasked with the responsibility of making judicial appointments, comprised the Chief Justice of India, two senior Supreme Court judges, the union law minister and two other eminent persons ted by the CII

ment had been struck down like this and the judges are not letting the system change. That has brought some friction in the

working of the (collegium) system post the NJAC. "If people say it (collegium) works smoothly, that would be unrealistic in a sense because that is not a fact. That is reflected by the number of appointments which remain pending. Even till today, certain names which have been recommended, are pending. We have to accept that there is a problem in the system. If we close our eyes to the problem we will not come to a solution. You must acknowledge the problem first and then only you can come up with a solu-

tion," Kaul said. Justice Kaul, who was a member Sunreme(for over a year, said at present the collegium system is the law of the land and it must be implemented as it stands.

Sangamam rediscovers age-old Tamil-Kashi link

PTI VARANASI



minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. However, in October 2015, the Supreme Court had struck down the NJAC Act holding it unconstitutional

In an interview with PTI, Justice Kaul, who demitted office on December 25, said one has to accept there is a problem with the collegium system and it will be "unrealistic" to say that it is working smoothly.

Justice Kaul, who was part of the top court bench which refused to accord marriage rights to same-sex couples under the existing laws, said the case was not strictly legal but involved social issues, and the government may introduce a law to effectuate such a right to them in future.

"Could NJAC have been dealt differently is a hindsight. Maybe, it could have been kept pending to experiment. It was never given a chance to work. When it was struck down there was angst in political circles that a Supreme Court, and chief justice and judges of high courts. unanimous decision of Parlia-

"What should be the way for-Manipuri singer Akhu ward is very difficult to say. Because the collegium system is the law of the land. So the collegium system, as it stands, must be implemented. If in its wisdom, the Parliament tomorrow says some other system should come in place taking cog-PTI 📕 IMPHAL nisance of a fault found, it is for them to do so, we cannot do so. Therefore, there is a responsibility on us that the existing law is followed," he said. Referring to the collegium's pending recommendations with

Renowned Manipuri singer and lyricist Akhu Chingangbam was abducted by unidentified gunmen from his residence in the government, he said the fric-Imphal East district on tion is "reflected" in the number Friday, his family said.

of appointments which remain pending. The NJAC Act, which However, he was later released unharmed was passed in 2014, provided for around 20 km away the procedure to be followed for from his house. 'A few armed men barged into recommending persons for appointment as the Chief Justice Chingangbam's residence in of India, other judges of the



Over 13,000 Bihar teachers' salaries deducted for playing hooky

PTI PATNA

The Bihar Education Depart-I ment has deducted the salaries of 12,987 school teachers, who were found absent from duty during inspections, in the last six months, a senior official said on Friday

The department has also suspended 39 others for various teaching violations committed in the last six months, while 13 educators have been dismissed from service for allegedly remaining absent from duty for periods between six months and two years without prior sanction, and also violating provisions of teachers' recruitment regulations

"In the last six months (till December 23), the department

has so far deducted salaries of 12,987 teachers who were found

have also been sent for the

salary deduction of 131 more

have been dismissed for alleged-

the department said on condi-

tion of anonymity.

teachers.

ing immediate "corrective measures" against "unconstitutional" and "autocratic" orders passed by absent (for six months to two years) from their duties without the higher education wing of the permission from the competent education department in the authority. "Recommendations recent past.

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar expressed the view that teachers. Besides, 13 teachers the department, by having passed such orders, seemed ly violating the provisions of the Bihar School Teachers' intent on "destroying the academic environment in the state" Recruitment regulations in the last six months," the official of Both alliance partners of the Mahagathbandhan government in Bihar as well as opposition BJP have demanded immediate withdrawal of the circulars.

The state education department is already facing criticism for its Ever since the department launched intense an inspection of schools from July 1 following recent circulars pertaining to The Raj Bhavan in Bihar on the instructions of its Additional

December 26 sent a missive to Chief Secretary K K Pathak, officials, right from block to district the state's chief secretary seek-

Reacting to departmental action against teachers, Sandeep Sauray, an MLA of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, told PTI on Friday, "I must say that certain circulars of the department pertaining to teachers are autocratic in nature. We are also in favour of reforms in the education system in the state but it should be done with a human face.

"Teachers should not be held responsible for all sorts of flaws in the education system. They

Despite repeated attempts by PTI, Bihar Education Minister Chandra Shekhar was not available for his comments on the issue

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 Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security InterestAct, 2002. Authorized Officer

Date :	December 30, 202
Place :	December 30, 202 Delhi/ NCR

🕋 NEW DELHI | SATURDAY | DECEMBER 30, 2023

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In God, we trust!

Modi's Ayodhya visit today is a prelude to Ram temple inauguration and has electoral significance

rime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Ayodhya today, ahead of the inauguration of the Ram temple, and the moment carries profound cultural, religious and political significance. The visit is also about the various projects to be inaugurated in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision to modernise the infrastructure in Ayodhya to place it on the national tourist map. The visit will involve a series of significant inaugurations and dedications. Modi will inaugurate the redeveloped Ayodhya railway station, launching new Amrit Bharat trains and Vande Bharat trains. He will also inaugurate the newly constructed Ayodhya airport. Besides, the foundation stones for a few more infrastructure projects will contribute to the beautification and enhancement of civic facilities in and around the ancient city. Though it sounds like a regular PM visit, it is not. The visit comes ahead of the inauguration of the Ram temple on January 22. Basically, the Prime Minister's visit serves as a symbolic tribute to the temple. It would be perti-



nent to add that the temple, which has been constructed at the site where the Babri mosque once stood, has been a contentious issue for decades and has been a polarising factor. In fact, the BJP owes its meteoric political rise to the demolition of the Babri mosque and subsequent campaign to construct the Ram temple there. The Supreme Court's verdict in November 2019 paved the way for the construction of the Ram temple, bringing an end to a protracted legal battle and giving way to the fulfilment of a significant promise made by the BJP. Ironically, Lal Krishna Advani, the man who spearheaded the campaign, may not be in attendance at the inaugural event.

Indeed, the inauguration of the Ram temple holds immense cultural and religious significance for the majority Hindu population in India. Ayodhya is believed to be the birthplace of Lord Ram, a revered figure in Hinduism, and the construction of his temple there has been a longstanding dream for millions of Hindus. The Prime Minister's presence in Ayodhya reiterates the Government's commitment to fulfilling the cultural and religious aspirations of people, besides underscoring the BJP's alignment with the sentiments of a significant percentage of the electorate. It would be naïve to believe that PM Modi's visit to Ayodhya is all about the physical redevelopment of Ayodhya. The timing of the visit, subsequent inauguration coming ahead of the 2024 general elections and amidst ongoing political developments is strategic. The BJP has historically aligned itself with Hindu nationalist sentiments, and the fulfilment of the Ram temple promise is likely to resonate positively with a large section of the electorate, particularly in the Hindi heartland where the party seeks to consolidate its support. The Ram temple issue has been a key element in the BJP's political narrative, and the party has consistently portrayed itself as the guardian of Hindu interests. PM Modi's visit reinforces the BJP's commitment to these ideals and may consolidate its votes in the Lok Sabha elections.



Ensure more women in technology



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Women's participation in the technology sector presents a mixed scenario. While some women have been important players, general progress has been disappointing

ith the Lok Sabha elections not so far away, and political parties gearing up to select candidates to contest on their behalf, one needs to remember that women's representation in the National Parliament, state legislatures, as well as the corridors of power, has been rather poor. Things are, doubtless, no better-and, in some cases, much worse-in most other countries, including the muchvaunted western democracies. Nor is politics the only sector in India and the world where women suffer a raw deal. Between 1901, when it was first awarded, and 2023, 965 individuals and 27 organisations received the Nobel Prize, some twice. Of them only 64 were women, with one of them, Marie Curie receiving it twice-in 1903 and 1911. The gender disparity has been particularly staggering in some areas. Women, for example, have accounted for only five out of the 225 recipients in physics, 13 out of 214 in medicine, eight out of 186 in chemistry and three out of 90 in economics.

Even in areas where more women have been recipients, the figures are 19 out of 92 in peace and 17 out of 103 in literature. There has, of course, been of late, an upward trend, but women still have miles to traverse to achieve something even close to parity with men in this area.

It is not just the case of the Nobel Prize. Compared to men, women are grossly under-represented in every domain of human activity outside the confines of domesticity. It is not possible to examine the situation in all of these in a column. Given, however, the fact that these multiple disciplines have many common parameters and function in the same defin-ing environment, it will be useful to focus on any one of them for a picture roughly indicative of how things generally are. In this context, it would be both interesting and instructive to look at the technology sector, the cutting

of civilisational progress

both globally and nationally.

Gitanjali Singh, global head of

tech.co.uk as stating that women accounted for 26 per cent of the workforce in the technology sector globally. While this marked an improvement over the figure of 19 per cent in 2019, it has by no means been enough for uncorking champagne bottles. Turning to the US, Singh refers to a Forbes magazine report stating that women held a mere 26.7 per cent of the technology jobs. She further points out that, even in the case of women committed to building careers, it was "harder for them to pitch their ideas, get equal wages and timely promotions, access mentoring, and networking opportunities, and earn a seat at the boardroom table." She refers to a report by the global management consultancy firm, McKinsey and Company, as stating in 2022 that for every 100 men promoted to managerial positions across all industries, 86 women were promoted. The number was lower in the technology industry-52 women promoted for every

cites a survey by womenin-



important players at the highest level, general progress has been disappointing. According to a report by Deutsche Welle published in Frontline (August 29, 2023), over 100 women scientists and engineers contributed to the Chandrayaan 3 mission landing a lunar rover on the moon. Not only that, India became, in the process, the first country to place a spacecraft near the moon's south pole. The report mentions S. Somanath, chairman of the Indian Space Research OVER 100 WOMEN Organisation (ISRO), which is in overall charge of India's SCIENTISTS AND space programme including ENGINEERS projects like Chandrayaan 3, talking about how women CONTRIBUTED were involved in conceptualising, designing and executing TO THE the mission, and adding, **CHANDRAYAAN 3** "Some of them played a significant role in navigation during MISSION LANDING the lander's critical descent." All this could, doubtless, hap-A LUNAR ROVER pen because there were ON THE MOON women with adequate qualifications and leadership capabilities. The Deutsche Welle report cited above, mentions World Bank data indicating highest in the world. Further, Gitanjali Singh refers to NASSĆOM's 'Strategic Review 2023,' stating that out of 5.4 million IT workers in India, 30 per cent were women. Other figures project a dismal picture. According to the Deutsche Welle report, a nationwide survey found that women made up only 13 per cent of scientists and science faculty at Indian higher education and research institutions. Even at ISRO, women employees accounted for 20 to 25 per cent of its total workforce of over

16,000 persons. Finally, the inevitable question: what is to be done? The exhortation that government and research institutions, and business undertakings, need to make a special effort has acquired the status of venerable cliché. Nevertheless, it has its kernel of truth. What one needs are specific and carefully calibrated measures. The main thrust has to come from the political arena. Hence the importance of having more women Members of Parliament, and their actively pursuing the cause of gender equality and justice. (The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

People from different parts of West Bengal take part in the All Bengal Bratachari Training camp, in Kolkata

Children with disabilities face considerable challenges



SHWETA RAWAT

Children with disabilities in underserved communities face a multitude of societal and economic challenges

n India, children with disabilities face considerable challenges, often amplified by socio-economic factors. Recent data suggests that a significant number of these children do not receive the necessary medical and educational support. These children are also less likely to attend school compared to their non-disabled peers. Moreover, access to specialized healthcare and rehabilitation services can be limited, particularly in rural and underprivileged areas. Parents often struggle to identify developmental issues in their children due to a lack of awareness and information. Recognizing signs of disabilities like autism, hearing impairments, or cognitive delays can be challenging without proper knowledge or access to healthcare professionals. Additionally, cultural stigma and misconceptions about disabilities can lead to denial or reluctance to seek help. This delay in identification hinders early intervention, which is crucial for better outcomes. The limited availability of specialized healthcare services in many regions



further exacerbates these challenges.

Children with disabilities in children suffering from conunderserved communities genital heart defects. face a multitude of societal Collaborations of NGOs with government healthcare and economic challenges. systems ensure broader These include limited access access to essential medical to healthcare, educational opportunities, and rehabilitreatments. The Centre for tation services. Financial Early constraints often prevent Development and Neurofamilies from seeking or continuing treatment, lead-Rehabilitation, established in collaboration with AIIMS, ing to inadequate care. aims to centralise services for Stigma and lack of awareness children with disabilities, ensuring more accessible in these communities further and effective care. Indeed, philanthropy can play a pivcontribute to social isolation and discrimination, impeding the children's developotal role in elevating pediment and integration into atric care for children with society. These challenges not disabilities and fostering only affect the immediate enduring positive impacts. By investing in specialized health and well-being of these children but also limit pediatric care centres, suptheir prospects in terms of porting research and innovaeducation, employment, and tion, and promoting early intervention programs, philsocial inclusion, perpetuatanthropic efforts can signifing a cycle of poverty and marginalization. icantly enhance the quality

of care provided to children To meet these challenges facing disabilities. Financial head-on early identification assistance to families, trainand providing comprehensive support throughout life ing healthcare professionals, is essential. Initiatives like the and constructing accessible Cochlear Implant Program facilities are additional have helped over 1200 hearavenues through which philing-impaired children since anthropy can actively con-2013, while the Little Hearts tribute. Program of the Hans

Advocacy and awareness Foundation (THF) tackles campaigns serve to educate various stakeholders, while collaboration with government agencies and NGOs ensures a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to pediatric care. Supporting community-Childhood based initiatives and fostering long-term partnerships with healthcare institutions and advocacy groups further strengthens the impact of philanthropy. Through these initiatives, philanthropy not only addresses immediate healthcare needs but also works towards creating inclusive environments that empower children with disabilities and their families, ultimately shaping a more equitable and supportive future.

(The writer is the Founder and Chairperson, of The Hans Foundation; views are personal)

THE EDITOR

SEAMLESS TRAFFIC

100 men.

strategy and new business growth sents a mixed scenario. While

of a transnational IT company, some of them have been

In India, women's participation

in the technology sector pre-

Sir - People are amazed by Aizawl's Seamless Traffic Etiquette. Aizawl is the capital of the North-East Indian state of Mizoram. The state is located at the eastern end of India, in the remote corner between Bangladesh and Myanmar. What makes Aizawl even quieter is the fact that using horns is forbidden in the whole state of Mizoram. Aizawl was the first city in India to ban the use of horns. Can you imagine an Indian city without any honking horns? Constant honking and chaos in traffic, especially in cities, is now accepted by everyone, yet Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, sets a sterling example of good road sense and etiquette. The aerial view of the city's traffic shows cars parked on one side of the road simply following the other vehicle. There is no overtaking, rushing, or honking at all.

Likewise, in the other lane, one can see two-wheelers creeping, and all the riders are wearing helmets. Interestingly, these lanes are not separated with any markings or blocks, and the commuters are seen maintaining lane traffic on their own. This seamless vehicle movement hopes that people from other cities and regions will be inspired to follow them.

CK Subramaniam | Chennai

RIP VIJAYAKANTH

Sir —The passing away of celebrated Tamil actor and political heavyweight Vijaykanth is sad news and an irreplaceable loss to Tamil cinema; he was affectionately called Captain Vijayakanth. He was a legend of the Tamil film world who captured the hearts of millions with his charismatic performance in films before transitioning into the realm of politics and founded Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK).

His contributions to both the film industry and Tamil Nadu political landscape were truly remarkable, and his charismatic performances in films like Prabhakaran" 'Captain and "Chandralekha" captured the hearts of

COVID cases spike in Odisha

that women made up nearly 43

per cent of the total STEM (Science, Technology,

Engineering and Mathematics)

graduates in India, one of the



ew cases of COVID-19 have been reported In the last eight days in Odisha. The Health Department stated that the two new cases originated from Cuttack, and another case was reported from Khurda district. The patients are currently in home isolation for treatment. This emerging variant is identified as JN.1, a novel sub-variant of Omicron. With an increase in COVID cases in the state, the Odisha Health and Family Welfare Department released guidelines on Saturday, placing emphasis on vulnerable and elderly individuals to wear masks and avoid crowded places. The first JN.1 variant case was identified in Kerala on November 18th of this year, and Kerala is also experiencing a higher number of Covid cases compared to other states. In the last 24 hours, India has recorded a total of 692 cases and reported

millions of people. His dedication to public service as a political leader left a asting impact on the Tamil Nadu political landscape; he was not just a mass hero on screen but off-screen, he was known for his generosity and helpful nature, who passed away without a single controversy to his name. Vijayakanth also served as MLA Tamil Nadu twice and leader of the opposition between 2011-2016. He leaves behind an irreplaceable void both in cinema and politics that will be hard to fill for time to come

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

COAL PRODUCTION

Sir — The government is aiming to scale up coal production from underground mines to 100 MT by 2030 by deploying

six deaths. The Odisha Government should pay attention to individuals' travel history, advising them to wear masks, particularly those in the vulnerable group. Key measures to combat the surge in cases include expanding testing and raising awareness among the public. Individuals should closely monitor symptoms and promptly report to doctors if any are observed.

Dr Bijay Mohapatra, the Director of Health Services, mentioned that samples from the three patients have been sent for genome sequencing to confirm the presence of the JN.1 variant. There is no need for panic, but everyone should remain vigilant and undergo a Covid test if symptoms develop. As of now, Odisha has not detected any new variant cases. However, cases are increasing in other states such as Karnataka. Kerala, Goa. Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.

With zero-night celebrations approaching, authorities should rigorously manage crowds in tourist places. The influx of travelers from other states during this holiday season may pose a risk of infection transmission. Travelers should adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines issued by the state government to contribute to reducing the number of COVID cases in the state

Akankhya Rout | Dhenkanal

mass production technology. India's coal sector is the second largest in the world. The country accounts for more than 10 percent of the global coal production and is second after China.

However, rolling out a policy to provide financial support for coal gasification projects, augmenting production, and promoting underground mining activities are among the government's priorities for the coal sector, which is key to meeting the country's rising electricity demand. Notably, for now, coal, which powers thermal power plants, is key for meeting the country's rising electricity demand

Tauqueer Rahmani | Mumbai

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the ploneer

FIRSTCOLUMN CHILDREN NEED LOVE AND CARE TO GROW

Children are unique individuals with their own needs, rights and experiences



SAKSHI SETHI

reat your kids with so much love that if someone mistreats them, they will know immediately. Childhood plays a big role in who we are as an individual. It is the parents who are the child's first teachers as they are the ones who teach them who they are by empowering them with the space to grow at their own pace. Not only this, it is the parents who need to fill a child's bucket of self-esteem so high that the rest of the world can't poke enough holes to drain it dry. Children of today need real love and not just material tokens that will emotionally backfire them. The generation of unconditionally loving, gentle parents changes the minds of the next generation and with that the future of the world. It is a daily affirmation of love and emphasis that at its core, gentle parenting is not just a set of techniques or strategies but a constant expression of love and compassion.

In the words of LR Knost, it's not our job as parents to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world. It's our job to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless." In a world full of challenges and unkindness, every action, interaction and decision in gentle parenting reaffirms the deep and unconditional love parents have for their child and as a result creates an environment where their child feels secure, valued and cherished, thereby contributing to the overall well-being and development. By nurturing their innate goodness, teaching them the art of understanding, caring for others and leading by example can one help create a generation that can contribute towards a more compassionate and harmonious world



If as a parent, one wants their child to come to them and tell them the truth and also approach them when their life gets hard, then as a parent one needs to practice the art of listening well and make a space to disagree, being honest and engaging in hurtful, meaningful conversation rather than resorting to punitive measures such as yelling, smacking or time outs. The goal is to care for the child into understanding and not to scare them into obedience. Choosing the child's mental health over everything for they are not achievements but humans who deserve to be healthy, happy and loved.

In the face of modern challenges, material tokens fall short in nurturing emotional resilience. The need for genuine, unconditional love is paramount. A generation raised by empathetic parents can redefine societal norms, paving the way for a more compassionate future. The daily affirmations of love and the emphasis on deep connections form a shield against the unkindness prevailing in the world. It is not about toughening children to face a heartless world, but about instilling values that make the world less cruel. In a world filled with cruelty, every act of gentle parenting becomes a beacon of love. These actions create a secure space for children, fostering a sense of worth and belonging. By nurturing their inherent goodness and teaching empathy, parents contribute to a generation capable of fostering harmony and compassion. To foster open communication, parents must master the art of listening, creating a safe space for disagreement and meaningful conversations. Choosing understanding over punitive measures reinforces the importance of mental health. Children are not mere achievements but unique individuals deserving health, happiness, and love. Remember, the relationship with the kids today sets the stage for all others they will have throughout their life including the one they will have with themselves. They are not just mini versions of adults but are unique individuals with their own needs, rights and experiences that should be valued and respected.

Taxation as a tool of social welfare

Recognising the need for mandatory individual societal responsibility in taxation is not just a financial imperative but a moral one



07

analysis



SUMIT KAUSHIK



ave you ever encountered the donation option while using Zomato? Amid the swift transactions and seamless food orders, there's a subtle chance to make a meaningful impact. Imagine this: a discreet suggestion to contribute an extra ?2 to the Feeding India program. It may seem inconspicuous, but its essence transcends mere transactions. This subtle gesture mirrors the profound spirit of every day ingrained in Indian culture. As you navigate the digital convenience of modern life, this unobtrusive act echoes India's enduring tradition of philan-thropy, seamlessly integrating acts of kindness into the canvas of daily existence.

Philanthropy is deeply ingrained in the



that helping the poor is the most popular cause, and the practice of giving, often in cash, remains

deeply rooted. Philosophical Basis for Mandatory Individual Social Responsibility: Drawing inspiration from John Rawls' principles of justice, the foundation for individual social responsibility can be philosophically justified. Rawls's first principle emphasises equal basic lib-erties for all, while the second principle, including the difference principle, underscores the importance of social and economic inequalities benefitting the least advantaged.

Social responsibility, therefore, branching into individual and organisational realms, aligns with

eralism and the quest for perfection urges us to consider the moral implications of genetic engineering and the commodification of various aspects of life. Sandel's emphasis on communal effort, showcased in his critique of Rawls, aligns with the cultur-al and philosophical underpin-nings of India. However, his caution against the tyranny of merit underscores the need for a nuanced approach to success, acknowledging the role of luck and fostering solidarity. Mandatory Individual Society

Responsibility in Taxation: In the quest for a more philanthropic India, a compelling proposal is to recognize mandatory individual

tribute to a collective fund dedicated to the betterment of society. This approach not only aligns with cultural values but also provides a structured mechanism for societal upliftment. It further would come to address the challenge relating to untraceable informal giving by institutionalising a portion of individual contributions for impactful social causes.

In a rapidly evolving world, India stands at the crossroads of tradition and modernity. Embracing the principles of justice, social responsibility, and everyday giving can pave the way for a more equitable and philanthropic society. Recognising the need for mandatory individual societal responsibility in taxation is not just a financial imperative but a moral one As we ponder the profound question posed by Michael Sandel -"Do we want a society where everything is up for sale?" – the proposed paradigm shift in taxation becomes a beacon of hope. It beckons India to reaffirm its commitment to dharma, justice, and the innate spirit of giving that has defined its cultural journey for centuries. Through this transformative approach, taxation can become a tool for societal well-being, ensuring that the bounty of economic progress is shared by all. (Vipin'is a senior Public Policy Consultant and Sumit is PhD candidate and a Social Impact Consultant, views are personal)

(The writer is an educator, views are personal)

ethos of Indian culture, extending beyond mere monetary contributions. Rooted in the idea of dharma, the duty to help others is enshrined in ancient scriptures and epitomised by the practice of Zakat in Islam and Dasvandh in Sikhism. Even within Hinduism, the Vedic concept of giving without expec-tation aligns with the core values of social responsibility, emphasising equality and fairness.

Everyday giving in India, as quantified by Sattva Consulting's report, exceeds global standards. At ? 34,242 crore in the year 2017, everyday giving in India is at least twice the size of everyday giving in China. Everyday givers are ordinary citizens who contribute their money, time, skills, voice, and goods to four primary destinations namely - local community, religion, disaster relief, and nonprofits. The findings reveal that informal giving to the community and religion accounts for a significant portion, with community giving covering health emergencies and basic needs. The data underscores

PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE. SOCIAL **RESPONSIBILITY.** EVERYDAY GIVING CAN PAVE

THE WAY FOR A MORE EQUITABLE AND PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY

Rawlsian ideals. Individual Social Responsibility (ISR) entails an ethical commitment to societal welfare. ISR, being a way of living, complements Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), emphasising the importance of individual behaviour in fueling organisational philanthropy. The idea that one's rights and responsibilities should be balanced for sustainable development resonates with ISR. It is not an act of sporadic charity but a constant manifestation of ethical and philanthropic behaviour. ISR involves trust, loyalty, sensitivity to societal needs, and positive participation in community life, fostering a spirit of solidarity. As we navigate a world shaped by technological and scientific advances, the ethical dimensions of progress demand scrutiny. Michael Sandel's critique of lib-

societal responsibility as part of taxation. Similar to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mandates, allocating 2% of the total individual tax burden to be spent on social needs could be transformative. This mandatory contribution would serve as a microdonation on a national scale, channelling funds to address pressing issues such as healthcare, education, and poverty alleviation, while solving two major issues persistent in the present system - That of CHOICE (granting taxpayers the ability to designate where their tax funds should be allocated, thereby pro-viding them with the agency in this respect) and of RIGHT (in contrast to the limited option of charity as the sole viable means of reciprocating social assistance.). Individuals, inspired by the spir-it of everyday giving, would con-

Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen II: A revolution in making

The mission is not only making India's villages cleaner and healthier but also positioning them as potential economic centres

ndia's sanitation landscape is undergoing a L transformative change, with the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Grameen Phase II marking a remarkable achievement: 5 lakh+ villages have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus. This milestone symbolizes the nation's commitment to creating a clean and healthy rural environment and highlights the power of community-driven initiatives. As of date, 16 States and Union Territories have achieved 100% ODF Plus Status, of which 4 have achieved ODF Plus Model Status

Launched on October 2, 2014, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, SBM aimed to eliminate open defecation



KALIMUTHU

first phase of this ambitious mission was a success, resulting in the construction of over 100 million Individual Household Toilets (IHHLs) and the transformation of 6 lakh villages into ODF villages. This accomplishment was a collective effort, with contributions from various

sectors of society, including bureaucracy, public representatives, corporations,

NGOs, and citizens. The key to the success of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Grameen Phase I was an effective communication strategy that included mass awareness campaigns, behaviour change communication, and the formation of local committees to accelerate the adoption of healthy hygiene disposing of greywater. The

across India by 2019. The practices, ensuring clean and healthy villages. The messaging from the Prime Minister, coupled with support from State and District administrations and endorsements from celebrities, significantly boosted the mission's reach and impact. Studies by UNICEF, WHO, and other organizations have highlighted the positive impact of SBM. Improvements in women's safety, convenience, and dignity, underscore the mission's success.

SBM Grameen Phase II extended beyond toilet construction, focusing on transforming villages into clean, healthy spaces. This phase emphasized the importance of maintaining toilets, managing waste, and responsibly

changed attitudes and behav- The SBM Grameen Phase II iours of rural communities, adopting new sanitation practices and collaborating with various stakeholders for waste management, marked a significant cultural shift.

Complementing the sanita-tion efforts, the Jal Jeevan Mission played a crucial role in ensuring sustained toilet usage by providing water supply to all households. The formation of Village Sanitation Water Committees institutionalized community participation, managing sanitation services and assets effectively. These committees, including self-help groups, have been instrumental in operationalizing and maintaining

sanitation facilities.

campaigns, like the Sujalam Campaign, focused on spe-cific aspects of sanitation, such as greywater management. These initiatives led to the construction of 5.1 million soak pits, showcasing the commitment to comprehensive sanitation solutions. The participation of rural communities was a driving force behind the success of SBM Grameen Phase II. Recognizing them as key stakeholders, the mission employed community-driven approaches, empowering individuals to take ownership of their sanitation facilities. The involvement of government agencies, PSUs, and rural WASH partners was crucial in realizing the mission's goals.

The achievement of over 5 lakh ODF Plus villages has led to improved quality of life, reduced disease risks, and enhanced dignity and well-being in rural commu-nities. This milestone in India's sanitation journey is more than a statistic; it represents a deep-rooted change impacting millions. It's a testament to the collective determination and resilience of rural communities in achieving a 'Sampoorna Swachh Bharat' or a Completely Clean India. The mission's meticulous plan-ning and concerted efforts have been pivotal in realizing the Prime Minister's vision of a 'Swachh Bharat'. As SBM Grameen moves

forward, the focus on com-

munity ownership and man-

agement of sanitation infrastructure remains key to sustaining these practices. The mission's role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals and contributing to India's economic growth is significant, highlighting its comprehensive and transformative impact. By addressing water body pollution and improving water security, SBM Grameen is not only making India's villages cleaner and healthier but also positioning them as potential economic centres, contributing to the broader goal of India becoming a USD 5 trillion economy.

(The writer is Executive Director, of WASH Institute, and a Member of NFSSM Alliance, views *are personal*)



Markets gain nearly 20 pc in 2023; fall on final trading day

PTI MUMBAI

n quity indices Sensex and Nifty declined on the last trading day of 2023 as investors preferred profit-taking after the recent sharp rally, finishing a record-setting year with benchmarks surging by up to 20 per cent.

After a five-day winning run, selling pressure emerged in energy, banking and IT counters on Friday, which dragged indices lower, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 170.12 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 72,240.26 after a weak beginning to the trade. During the day, it dropped 327.74 points or 0.45 per cent to 72,082.64 The wider gauge Nifty declined



EV EXPO 2023 held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

Athree-day Electric Vehicle Technology Expo '19th EV EXPO 2023' showcasing an array of latest and technologically advanced, pollution-free 2, 3 and 4 wheeled e-vehicles, parts and accessories, charging solutions and technology from around 218 national and international companies concluded here with an enthusiastic response from visitors and participants The 3-day event which was

inaugurated by Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways. He was upbeat about the future of the EV Sector and said that the segment will have one crore annual sales and generate 5 crore Jobs

by 2030. His statement hinges on the huge demand for small batteryoperated electric vehicles in the market. Officials said that India has the potential to become an exporter of these variants of EVs.

As per the Vahan database. 34.54 lakh e-vehicles are already registered in India. An estimated Rs 20 lakh Crore investment is needed in India for the EV

47.30 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at 21,731.40. In intra-day trade, the index slipped 101.8

points or 0.46 per cent to 21.676.90 In 2023, the BSE benchmark jumped 11,399.52 points or 18.73 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 3,626.1 points or 20

per cent. Among the Sensex firms, State Bank of India, Infosys, Titan, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, ICICI Bank, Power Grid, Reliance Industries and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major laggards. On the other hand, Tata Motors, Nestle, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance and UltraTech Cement were among the gainers.

profit booking on the last trading day of the year. The euphoria is expected to continue "The market witnessed mild during the start of the next year

on account of the exuberance of rate cuts and the drop in bond yields. Oil prices, on the other hand, fell by 10 per cent

ease inflationary pressure and support the operating performance of the corporates.

"We feel that though the outlook on broader indexes is moderate in the short to medium term, the large caps will maintain their vibrancy due to strong earnings growth and in anticipation of the continuation of premium valuation," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In Asian markets, Tokyo settled lower while Shanghai and

Hong Kong ended with gains. Markets were closed in South Korea European markets were trading in positive territory. The US

markets ended on a mixed note on Thursday

during the year, which could Rising for the fifth consecutive day, the BSE benchmark jumped 371.95 points, or 0.52 per cent, to settle at an all-time closing high of 72,410.38 on Thursday.

The Nifty climbed 123.95 points, or 0.57 per cent, to set-tle at a fresh record of 21,778.70.

In the last five trading ses-sions, the BSE benchmark rallied 1,904.07 points or 2.70 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 628.55 points or 2.97 per cent.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.86 per cent to USD 77.81 a barrel Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 4,358.99 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Fiscal deficit at Nov end exceeds 50%

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The government's fiscal deficit at the end of November stood at Rs 9.06 lakh crore or 50.7 per cent of the full-year budget estimate, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Friday. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit -- the difference between expenditure and revenue -- was at Rs 9,06,584 crore during the April-October peri-

od of 2023-24. In the corresponding period last year, the deficit was at 58.9 per cent of the budget estimates of 2022-23.

For 2023-24, the fiscal deficit of the government is estimated to be at Rs 17.86 lakh crore or 5.9 per cent of the GDP. The Government of India received Rs 17.4 lakh crore

(64.3 per cent of corresponding BE 2023-24 of total receipts) up to November 2023 comprising Rs 14.35 lakh crore tax revenue (net), Rs 2.84 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and Rs 25,463 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

Non-debt capital receipts consist of recovery of loans and miscellaneous capital receipts. As per the CGA data, total expenditure incurred by the central government was at Rs 26.52 lakh crore (58.9 per cent of corresponding BE 2023-24) during April-November 2023. Out of the total expenditure, Rs 20.66 lakh crore was on revenue account and Rs 5.85 lakh crore was on capital account. Continuing the path of fiscal consolidation, the government intends to bring the fiscal deficit below 4.5 per cent of GDP by 2025-26.

Rs 25,813 cr Investments under pharma PL jOVt PTI NEW DELHI

Tnvestments worth Rs 25,813 manufacturing capabilities by crore have been made and 56,171 new jobs were added as of September this year under the production-linked incentive scheme for pharmaceuticals, the government said on Friday.

duction in the sector and contributing to product diversification to high value goods in the pharmaceutical sector. The total outlay of the scheme is In its year-end review, the Rs 15,000 crore and the scheme Department of Pharmaceuticals duration is from 2020-2021 to

cals is being implemented with

an objective of enhancing India's

increasing investment and pro-

(DoP) also said the 'Pradhan 2028-29, an official statement Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi said. Under the Scheme, 55 Pariyojana' achieved its target of applicants have been selected. opening 10,000 retail outlets in which includes five applicants of In-vitro Diagnostics (IVD) 2023 to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices to devices with committed investthe poor and underprivileged. ment of Rs 17.275 crore. The production-linked incentive Progress made under the scheme

"investment worth Rs.25,813

crore has been grounded and employment for 56,171 persons have been generated", it added. "The sales made by the selected (PLI) scheme for pharmaceuti- and as of September 2023,



applicants is worth Rs 1,16,121 crore, which includes exports of Rs 75,141 crore. The scheme envisages manufacturing of a specialised category of pharma-

ceuticals/ IVD devices," the statement said

Under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiva Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), the flagship scheme of the department, as on November 30, 2023, as many as 10,006 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) retail outlets -- have been opened across the country, it

added. In 2023, 206 medicines and 13 surgical equipment were added in the product basket of the scheme. Product basket of PMBJP comprises 1,965 medicines and 293 surgical equipment

anti-diabetics, cardiovasculars, anti-cancers and gastro-intestinal medicines.

On the PLI scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical key starting materials (KSMs), drug intermediates (DIs) and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in India, DoP said a total of 249 applications across all four categories of products were received.

Out of 249 applications, 48 applications have been approved with committed investment of Rs 3,938.57 crore and expected employment generation of around 9,618 persons, it added. covering all major therapeutic As of September 2023, out of 48 groups such as anti-infectives, approved projects, 27 projects

have been commissioned Investment of Rs 3,063 crore has been grounded and employment for 2,777 persons has been generated, the statement said, adding sales made by the commissioned projects are worth Rs 817.33 crore, including exports of Rs 252.62 crore. Similarly, for the PLI scheme for

medical devices that has a financial outlay of Rs 3,420 crore, a total 64 applications across four categories of products were received and 26 applications have been approved with committed investment of Rs 1,330.44 crore and expected employment generation for around 7,950 per-

Penal charges in loan accounts BoB ups fixed deposits RBI gives 3 more months to banks rates by up to 125 bps

PTI MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday granted three more months up till April 1, 2024 to banks and NBFCs to implement the modified norms for levying penal charges in loan accounts, as part of fair lending practice.

In August, the central bank issued a circular on 'Fair Lending Practice - Penal Charges in Loan Accounts' and it was to come into effect from January 1, 2024. "However, considering that extend the timeline for imple-

mentation of the instructions certain clarifications and additional time has been sought by



April 1, 2024 onwards. In the case of existing loans, the RBI said the switchover to new penal charges regime should be ensured on the next review/ renewal date falling on or after April 1, 2024, but not later than June 30, 2024.

Concerned over the practice of banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) using penal interest as a revenue enhancement tool, the Reserve Bank on August 18 had modified norms, under which

institutions will not be allowed to levy penal interest with effect from January 1, 2024, it

had said. "Penalty, if charged, for noncompliance of material terms and conditions of loan contract by the borrower shall be treat ed as 'penal charges' and shall not be levied in the form of 'penal interest' that is added to the rate of interest charged on the advances," the August circular said.

It further said the quantum of penal charges "shall be reasonable and commensurate with al terms and conditions of loan contract without being discriminatory within a particular loan/product category

PTI NEW DELHI

Ttate-owned Bank of Baroda **S**(BoB) has increased the interest rate on fixed deposits (FDs) for various maturities by up to 125 basis points, days after State Bank of India (SBI) hiked interest rates on some term deposits.

Interest rate on term deposits up to Rs 2 crore was hiked from 10 basis points to up to 125 basis points on various maturity buckets with effect from December 29, 2023, BoB said



maturity buckets, specifically those less than 1 year, it said. 'Increasing interest rates in shorter-term maturities will not only greatly benefit depositors who keep deposits for shorter maturities but will also contribute to the Bank's objec-tive of balancing and optimising the overall cost of deposits and protecting its Net Interest Margin (NIM)," it said.

from 3 per cent to 4.25 per cent, it said. It is followed by a 15-45 days naturity ner basis point hike to 4.50 per cent, it said.

The increase in rates are large-

ly focused on shorter-term

This is also in line with the

bank's strategy to increase its share of shorter-term retail term deposits, it added. ier

big opportunity for OEMs, component and battery manufacturers and charging part operators, the officials said

some regulated entities (REs) to reconfigure their internal systems and operationalize the circular, it has been decided to

Accordingly, regulated entities, which include banks and NBFCs, have been asked to ensure that the instructions are

only "reasonable" penal charges in case of default in repayment of loans.

s woul

the RRI said

The banks and other lending

The highest increase of 125 basis points has been effected in the 7-14 days bucket where interest rate has been increased

interest rates on some term deposits by up to 50 basis points. It is expected that other banks would follow the suit.

Net office space demand up 10% in top 7 cities: JLL

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Net demand for office space grew 10 per cent on an average this year to nearly 42 million square feet across seven major cities despite global economic uncertainties, driven by record leasing activities in the fourth quarter by corporates, according to JLL India

Real estate consultant JLL India on Friday released data for the office market, showing that the net leasing of office space stood at 41.97 million square feet this year as against 38 million square feet in the previous year. This is the second highest annual net office space absorption. The highest leasing was recorded in 2019.

Net absorption is calculated as the new floor space occupied less floor space vacated. Floor space that is pre-committed is not considered to be absorbed until it is physically occupied.

While net absorption in the first half of the year was subdued, the pace of expansion from corporates quickened in the latter half of the year, reaching unprecedented heights in the final quarter, JLL noted.

"This growth was fuelled by India's talent and cost arbitrage, along with its growing reputation as an innovation and R&D (research and development) hub. The capacity addition in terms of both office space and headcount further validates the confidence in India's business environment," the consultant

said.

Net absorption of office space reached a historic high of 16.01 million square feet during the October-December period this year, beating the previous high of 14.09 million square feet in the fourth quarter of 2019. Ås per the latest data, the net

office leasing in Chennai jumped more than two times to 6.61 million square feet during 2023 calendar year from 3.26 million square feet in the last year. In Kolkata, the demand grew 99 per cent to 1.35 million square feet from 0.68 million square feet.

Bengaluru, the prominent office market, saw a slight fall in demand to 9.01 million square feet from 9.05 million square feet. The demand declined 23 per cent in Hyderabad to 6.89 million square feet from 8.96 million square feet.

Net office space demand in Delhi-NCR rose 18 per cent to 7.25 million square feet from 6.16 million square feet. Mumbai witnessed a 6 per cent growth in demand to 6 million square feet from 5.65 million square feet, while Pune saw a per cent rise in leasing to 15 4.87 million square feet during this year from 4.24 million square feet in the 2022 calen-

dar year JLL Índia said that gross leasing of office space in these seven markets stood at 62.98 million square feet, a significant 26.4 per cent year-on-year increase.

vehicles, cars, utility vehicles, and two-/three-wheelers, accompanied by government focus on infra spending, Crisil Ratings said in a note.

Vehicle loan books of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are poised to jump to Rs 8.1 lakh crore by March 2025 from Rs 5.9 lakh crore in March 2023, according to a report Higher loan sales amid better repayments will lead to improved asset quality, the report added.

according to a report. The growth will be driven by rising demand of commercial Commercial vehicles accounted for 50 per cent of vehicle loans as of March 2023, fol-

PTI MUMBAI

PTI MUMBAI

Fuelled by demand, manufac-turing activities, and investments, the horizon of the coun-try's logistics industry looks promising" for 2024, though Red Sea might cast a shadow of global supply disruptions and

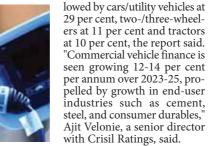
push up freight costs. Not just the market tailwinds, the government's key initiatives spanning from PM Gati Shakti to the maritime policy to the Sagarmala project will also set the tone for the logistics landscape next year, according to experts.

"In 2023, India's logistics sector showcased commendable progress. The government's strategic investments and com-mitment to digitalisation have been instrumental in this growth. As we step into 2024, the sector's outlook remains promising," Grégory Goba-Blé, Managing Director for UPS in India, said

To complement the PM Gati Shakti, the government, in 2022, rolled out a comprehensive national policy for the logistic sector to address the issues of high logistics cost and inefficiencies, among others. The policy helped India climb

six places to the 38th position among 139 countries in the

NBFCs' vehicle loan book to cross Rs 8L



29 per cent, two-/three-wheelers at 11 per cent and tractors at 10 per cent, the report said. "Commercial vehicle finance is seen growing 12-14 per cent per annum over 2023-25, propella and novel 2023-23, pro-pelled by growth in end-user industries such as cement, steel, and consumer durables,"

The loan growth is also being fuelled by used-vehicle financing amid a rise in prices of new vehicles. Besides, credit profiles of vehicle financiers have also been supported by steady improvement in asset quality since the last fiscal.

An analysis of vehicle financiers, which collectively account for over 90 per cent of sectoral loans, shows that overall 90+ Days Past Due (DPD) improved 120 basis points to 4.7 per cent in the last fiscal. Given the strong correlation of asset quality with overall economic activity, the overall 90+ DPD should improve 50 bps to 4.2 per cent this fiscal and sustain at a similar level in the next fiscal, Malvika Bhotika, a director with the agency, said.

The Red Sea, accounting for 12 per cent of global trade and 30 per cent of container traffic, serves as a crucial link in the global supply chain. With the Suez Canal shortening voyages between the East and West, the Red Sea acts as a bridge for millions of containers carrying everything from electronics and garments to oil and agricultural products.

domestic front, India has emerged as a bright spot," Allcargo Group Chief Strategy Officer Ravi Jakhar said. The sustained revival of manu-facturing activities and con-sumer demand have increased

ronment. However, on the

the logistics service demand in India, he added. Noting that the geopolitical developments will continue to keep the trade on its toes, he said owing to the subdued global demand scenario, the capacity is expected to remain underutilised in the first half of 2024. Jakhar also said sustainability is another key driver as more and more companies are becoming ESG conscious and that sustainable or green logistics practices will become more dominant in 2024.

However, the Red Sea crisis has directly impacted India, which heavily relies on maritime trade, Ambrish Kumar, Founder-CEO of ZipaWorld Innovation Pvt Ltd, said.

With 20 per cent of Indian exports passing through the Suez Canal and Red Sea route, the disruption translates to significant economic repercussions, Kumar said. He also said vessel insurance costs are skyrocketing and freight charges are surging 30-40 per cent. The latest attacks on Israellinked vessels in the Red Sea

have exposed the vulnerability of global supply chains. "As we enter 2024, business outlook remains uncertain," Amit Maheshwari, Founder & CEO of Softlink Global Pvt Ltd, said. Globally, business outlook depends on how long supply

chain disruptions, energy price volatility and geopolitical ten-sions in the Red Sea region persists, he said, adding that the drone attack in the Indian Ocean also highlights evolving asymmetric threats.

Logistics sector poised for 'promising' new year

seventh edition of the World Bank Logistics Performance Index 2023.

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the e-commerce boom has driven a heightened demand for logistics services, emphasising the importance of speed in order fulfilment, storage flexibility, and customer satisfaction.

Last-mile delivery and returns processing/reverse logistics have been the buzzwords throughout the year, with companies focusing on solving these challenges to meet customer expectations. In 2024, the logistics sector is poised for significant advancements and transformative shifts in response to emerging trends, experts said.

Managing Director of NIDO Group, said tier-II/III cities will be game changers as SMEs come to the growth's forefront while warehouse automation, a driving force in recent years, is

Nirav Doshi, Founder & set to continue revolutionising



the warehousing industry. The general elections are scheduled for early 2024 and it will be keenly watched by global investors and manufacturing companies. The upcoming regime has the

potential to enact policies that not only mitigate risks highlight-ed by recent crises but also posi-tion India as a global logistics hub, Flomic Global Logistics

Managing Director Lancy Barboza said.

According to Homi Katgara,

Partner at Jeena & Company, government initiatives promotng inland waterways, developing smaller ports, and increas ing the number of airports, present exciting avenues for growth. 'The global trade is witnessing a slowdown in demand due to

subdued macroeconomic envi-



Maine bars Trump from ballot

AP PORTLAND

Maine's Democratic secre-tary of state on Thursday removed former President Donald Trump from the state's presidential primary ballot under the Constitution's insurrection clause, becoming the first election official to take action unilaterally as the US Supreme Court is poised to decide whether Trump remains eligible to return to the White House. The decision by Secretary

of State Shenna Bellows follows a ruling earlier this month by the Colorado Supreme Court that booted Trump from the ballot there under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment. That decision has been stayed until the U.S. has been stayed until the 0.3. Supreme Court decides whether Trump is barred by the Civil War-era provision, which prohibits those who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office.

The Trump campaign said it would appeal Bellows' decision to Maine's state courts, and Bellows suspended her ruling until that court system rules on the case. In the end, it is likely that the nation's highest court will have the final say on whether Trump



appears on the ballot in Maine and in the other states.

Bellows found that Trump could no longer run for his prior job because his role in

the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol violated Section 3, which bans from office those who "engaged in insurrection." Bellows made the ruling after some state residents, including a bipartisan group of former lawmakers, challenged Trump's position on the ballot.

'I do not reach this conclusion lightly," Bellows wrote in her 34-page decision. "I am mindful that no Secretary of State has ever deprived a presidential candidate of ballot access based on Section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment. I am also mindful, however,

insurrection.

The Trump campaign immediately slammed the ruling. "We are witnessing, in real-time, the attempted theft of an election and the disenfranchisement of the American voter," campaign spokesman Steven Cheung said in a statement.

Legal experts said that Thursday's ruling demon-strates the need for the nation's highest court, which has never ruled on Section 3, to clarify what states can do.

"It is clear that these decisions are going to keep popping up, and inconsistent decisions reached (like the many states keeping Trump on the ballot over challenges) until there is final and decisive guidance from the U.S. Supreme Court," Rick Hasen, law professor at the University of California-Los Angeles, wrote in response to the Maine decision. "It seems a certainty that SCOTUS will have to address the merits sooner or later."

While Maine has just four electoral votes, it's one of two states to split them. Trump won one of Maine's electors in 2020, so having him off the

that no presidential candidate ballot there, should he emerge has ever before engaged in as the Republican general elecas the Republican general elec-tion candidate, could have outsized implications in a race that is expected to be narrowly decided.

That's in contrast to Colorado, which Trump lost by 13 percentage points in 2020 and where he wasn't expected to compete in November if he wins the Republican presidential nomination.

In her decision, Bellows acknowledged that the U.S. Supreme Court will probably have the final word but said it was important she did her official duty.

That won her praise from the former state lawmakers who filed one of the petitions forcing her to consider the

case. "Secretary Bellows showed great courage in her ruling, and we look forward to helping her defend her judicious and correct decision in court.

No elected official is above the law or our constitution, and today's ruling reaffirms this most important of American principles," Republican Kimberly Rosen, independent Thomas Saviello and Democrat Ethan Strimling said in a statement

Displaced Palestinians flood southern Gaza town

AP 📕 RAFAH (GAZA STRIP)

Tens of thousands of dis-placed Palestinians have streamed into the overwhelmed town of Rafah in the southernmost end of Gaza in recent days, according to the United Nations, as Israeli forces on Friday continued to blast through dense areas in the centre of the strip,

areas in the centre of the strip, killing dozens of people. Israel's unprecedented air and ground offensive against Hamas has displaced some 85 per cent of the Gaza Strip's 2.3 million residents, sending swells of people seeking shelter in Israeli-designated safe areas that the military has nevertheless the military has nevertheless also bombed. That has left Palestinians with a harrowing sense that nowhere is safe in the tiny enclave.Israel's widening campaign, which has already flattened much of northern Gaza, is now focused on builtup areas in central Gaza, where Israeli warplanes and artillery pounded the urban refugee camps of Bureij, Nuseirat and

Maghazi, levelling buildings, residents said. But fighting is raging across many areas of Gaza. It has not abated in the north, where

Hamas is still battling Israeli

Destroyed buildings in the Gaza Strip, as seen from southern Israel, Friday. The army is battling Palestinian militants across Gaza in the war ignited by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israe

troops with tough resistance. And the second-largest city of Khan Younis in the south, where Israel believes Hamas' leaders are hiding, is also a smoldering battleground.

The war has already killed over 21,300 Palestinians and sparked a humanitarian crisis hat has left a quarter of Gaza's

population starving. Israel has vowed to dismantle Hamas and bring back more than 100 hostages still held by

Israel has told residents of central Gaza to evacuate and head toward Rafah and the central city of Deir al-Balah. But even as the displaced have poured in, Rafah has not been spared from Israeli attacks.

world 09

A strike Thursday evening destroyed a residential building, killing at least 23 people, accord-ing to the media office of the nearby Al-Kuwaiti Hospital. At the hospital, residents

rushed in a baby whose face was flecked with dust and who wailed as doctors tore open its Mickey Mouse onesie to check for injuries. Shorouq Abu Oun fled the fighting in northern Gaza a month ago and sheltered at her sister's house, which is located near Thursday's strike

"We were displaced from the north and came here as they (the Israeli military) said it is safe," said Abu Oun, speaking at the hospital where the dead and wounded were taken. "I wish we were martyred there (in northern Gaza) and didn't come here."The displaced arrived in Rafah in trucks, carts and many on foot.

Those who haven't found space in the already overwhelmed shelters have built tents on the roadsides, especially near hospitals.

Mizan, the news website

affiliated with the country's

judiciary, said three men and

one woman were executed Friday morning. It identified the men as Vafa Hanareh,

Aram Omari, Rahman Parhazo

and the woman as Nasim

Namazi. The report didn't say

how the deaths were carried

out, but Iran usually applies

The four were charged with kidnapping several Iranian security forces to

extract intelligence informa-

hanging.

Iran executes N Korea's new reactor likely US sanctions money network tied to Yemen 4 people for Houthi rebels blamed for shipping vessel attacks to be operational next summer alleged links produce weapons-grade plutowith Mossad

AP SEOUL

Alight-water reactor at North Korea's main nuclear complex will likely be formally operational by next summer, South Korea's defense minister said, amid suspicions that the North may use it as a new source of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.Concerns about North Korea's nuclear program deepened recently as the UN atomic agency and foreign experts said they've detected signs indicating that North Korea had begun operating its light-water reactor at the Yongbyon nuclear complex.

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said last week that his agency had observed increased levels of activity at and near the reactor and since mid-October, a strong water outflow from its cooling system.

He said the reactor is "a water reactors are best-suited for electricity generation. Shin noted cause for concern" because it can produce plutonium - one of the there has been no country which two key ingredients used to has used light-water reactors to

manufacture nuclear weapons, along with highly enriched ura-

told local reporters a day before

that his country had also spot-

ted similar cooling system-relat-

ed activities associated with the

to be in the stage of a trial oper-

ation and that it's expected to be

officially operational around

fuels. Yongbyon has a uranium

enrichment facility as well. There

are questions about the reactor's

reported operation, as light-

Shin said the reactor appears

reactor last summer.

next summer.

nium

nium. However, many observers say North Korea could adapt one The South Korean Defense Ministry said Friday that Defense Minister Shin Wonsik

at Yongbyon to produce weapons-grade plutonium.

(North Korea)'s commissioning of a new light water nuclear power plant raises serious concerns, including safety," the US Mission to the UN in Vienna said Saturday in a message posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. "(North Korea's) unlawful nuclear, ballistic missile programs continue to pose a grave threat to international peace & security."

North Korea has long produced weapons-grade plutoni-um from its widely known 5-Grossi also noted the North's operation of the light-water reactor violates UN Security megawatt reactor at Yongbyon. The light-water reactor would be Council resolutions. an additional source of bomb

The IAEA and foreign governments have no access to Yongbyon and other suspected nuclear sites in North Korea, and they typically rely on satellite imagery to monitor the North's nuclear activities. North Korea kicked out IAEA inspectors from the country in 2009.

AP WASHINGTON

The US on Thursday imposed sanctions on a group of money exchange services from Yemen and Turkey alleged to help provide funding to Iranian-backed Houthi rebels who have been launching attacks on commercial shipping vessels in the south-ern Red Sea — including a drone and a missile that were shot down Thursday by the US military

Included in the sanctions are the head of a financial intermediary in Sana'a, Yemen, along with three exchange houses in Yemen and Turkey. US Treasury alleges that the people and firms helped transfer millions of dollars to the Houthis at the direction of sanctioned Iranian financial facilitator Sa'id al-Iamal.

The sanctions block access to U.S. property and bank accounts and prevent the targeted people and companies

Hong Kong pro-independence



from doing business with Americans.

Thursday's action is the latest round of financial penalties meant to punish the Houthis. Earlier this month, the U.S. announced sanctions against 13 people and firms alleged to be providing tens of millions of dollars from the sale and shipment of Iranian commodities

to the Houthis in Yemen. Brian E. Nelson, Treasury's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, said

Hong Kong governments have

hailed the security law for bring-

ing stability to the city.

Thursday's action "underscores our resolve to restrict the illicit flow of funds to the Houthis. who continue to conduct dangerous attacks on internation-al shipping and risk further

destabilizing the region." Nelsons said the US and its allies "will continue to target the key facilitation networks that enable the destabilizing activities of the Houthis and their backers in Iran. The Houthis have sporadically targeted ships in the region in the past, but the attacks have increased since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas, spiking after an Oct. 17 explosion at a hospital in Gaza killed and injured many. Houthi leaders have insisted Israel is their target

The US military's Central Command reported another attempt to attack commercial vessels Thursday. It said the USS Mason, a Navy destroyer, shot down one drone and one ballistic missile that were fired

India-born entrepreneur

by the Houthis around 6 p.m. local time.

the militants after their October

7 attack on southern Israel.

The assault killed some 1,200

The UN said late Thursday

that around 100,000 people

have arrived in Rafah, along the

border with Egypt, in recent days. The influx crams even

more people into one of Gaza's

most densely populated areas.

people, mostly civilians.

A STREAM OF

DISPLACEMENT

'There was no damage to any of the 18 ships in the area Tehran (AP): Iran executed on Friday four people and sen-tenced several others to prison or reported injuries," CentCom said, adding that it was the for having alleged links with 22nd attempted attack by Israel's Mossad security service, Houthis on international shipping since Oct. 19. local media reported.

In December, the White House also announced that it was encouraging its allies to join the Combined Maritime Forces, a 39-member partnership that exists to counter malign action by non-state actors in international waters, as it looks to push back against the Houthis.

The attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea by Yemen's Houthi rebels have scared off some of the world's top shipping companies and oil giants, effectively rerouting global trade away from a crucial artery for consumer goods and energy supplies that is expected to trigger delays and rising prices.

extract intelligence informa-tion, Mizan reported. They were also accused of setting fire to cars and apartments of some of Iran's intelligence agents. The report also said sever-al others - working with the same group - were each sen-tenced to 10 years in jail. withtenced to 10 years in jail, without giving further details.

This came less than a week after an alleged Israeli airstrike 1-ranking Iranian general in Syria. Iran and Israel have long accused each other of spying and waging a shadow war for years.

suspected ISIS ties

Turkey detains 29 with

AP ANKARA

Turkish security forces have detained 32 people suspected of links to the Islamic State extremist group who were allegedly planning to carry out attacks on synagogues and churches as well as the Iraqi Embassy, Turkey's state-run news agency reported Friday.

The suspects, including three alleged senior IS militants, were detained in raids carried out at dawn in nine provinces across Turkey, Anadolu Agency reported, citing unnamed security sources.

They were detained in a joint operation by the country's intelligence agency and police, the agency said.

The arrests come a week after police rounded up 304

suspected IS militants in simultaneous raids across Turkey in what appeared to be a security sweep leading up to the New Year festivities.

The Islamic State group has carried out a string of deadly attacks in Turkey, including a shooting at an Istanbul night club on January 1, 2017, that killed 39 people during New Year celebrations.



and sentenced to 43 months in prison.

them on where he had been,

activist seeks asylum in UK

AP HONG KONG

n activist who advocated for A n activist who actrocate Hong Kong independence and was jailed under a sweeping national security law fled to Britain to seek political asylum, according to his social media posts Friday. Tony Chung was among the first convicted under the Beijing-imposed law that was introduced after the 2019 pro-democracy protests. He was found guilty of secession and money laundering in 2020

In two Instagram posts Friday, Chung detailed how authorities closely watched him after he was released from prison: He was asked to meet with national security authorities regularly and report to

authorities did not immediately reply to The Associated Press' request for comment. The intimidation faced by Hong Kong dissidents like Chung reflects the drastic erosion of the freedoms promised to the former British colony when it returned to China in 1997. But both the Beijing and

whom he had met with and his conversations, and authorities offered to pay him for information on others to prove he had reformed himself. They also proposed he go to mainland China

Chung said he was made to sign a document that barred him from disclosing his conversations with the authorities, so similar pressure from authorihe could not seek help from any ties.

gets one of Canada's highest honours lawyers nor tell anyone about his situation."Under enormous stress and fear, I can only endure silently," he said. Hong Kong

Ottawa (PTI): Firdaus Kharas, an India-born entrepreneur and thought leader, has been appointed as an officer of the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest honours, for advancing social change through human-centred media.

The annual list of 2023 appointees to the Order of Canada was released by Governor General of Canada Mary Simon on Thursday.

The Order of Canada is Earlier in December, one of our country's highest honours. It recognises people prominent pro-democracy activist Agnes Chow, who left across all sectors of society who Hong Kong for Canada and have made extraordinary and doesn't plan to return to fulfill sustained contributions to her bail conditions, reported Canada.

Simon's office announced ment. three new appointments of

"companions" - the highest In November, United level of the Order of Canada -Nations chief Antonio Guterres 15 officers, including one honsaid Iran was carrying out exeorary officer, and 59 members. cutions "at an alarming rate," Kharas, 68, had been appointputting to death at least 419 ed officer of the Order of people in the first seven Canada "for advancing social months of the year. Iran said it executed an Israeli Mossad spy change through human-centred media as a social entrepreearlier this month, charged with releasing classified infor-mation. In January, former Iranian-British defense minneur, humanitarian and mass communications media producer"."I am deeply moved to istry Ali Reza Akbari was receive this high honour, which is especially meaningful to me hanged for alleged cooperation as an immigrant. Although a with Britain's Secret Intelligence Service. In 2020, Iran executhigh achieving community, Parsis are a minuscule commued a man convicted of leaking nity numbering only 3,600 in information to the US and Canada, so it is extremely sat-Israel about a prominent isfying to be noticed in this Islamic Revolutionary Guard way," Kharas said in a stategeneral who was later killed by

a US drone strike in Iraq.

'Nuclear missile capsules safe; but toxic dangers lurked, docus show'

AP WASHINGTON

Alarge pool of dark liquid festering on the floor. No fresh air. Computer displays that would overheat and ooze out a fishy-smelling gel that nauseated the crew. Asbestos readings 50 times higher than the Environmental Protection Agency's safety standards.

These are just some of the past toxic risks that were in the underground capsules and silos where Air Force nuclear missile crews have worked since the 1960s. Now many of those service members have cancer. The toxic dangers were recorded in hundreds of pages of documents dating back to the 1980s that were obtained by The Associated Press through Freedom of Information Act requests. They tell a far different story from what Air Force leadership told the nuclear missile community decades ago, when the first reports of unsafe levels of polychlorinatcancer among service members began to surface:

"The workplace is free of health hazards," a Dec 30, 2001, wiring Air Force investigation found. "Sometimes, illnesses tend to occur by chance alone," a fol-

found The capsules are again under scrutiny. The AP reported in January that at least nine current or former nuclear missile officers, or missileers, had been diagnosed with the blood cancer non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Then hundreds more came forward self-reporting cancer diagnoses.

In response the Air Force launched its most sweeping review to date and tested thousands of air, water, soil and surface samples in all of the facilities where the service members worked. Four current samples have come back with

ed biphenyls, or PCBs, a known carcinogen used in electrical In early 2024, more data is expected, and the Air Force is

working on an official count of how many current or former low-up 2005 Air Force review missile community service members have cancer.

Some current missileers told the AP they were concerned by the new reports but believe the Air Force is being transparent in its current search for toxic dangers. Many of them take some of the same precautions missileers have for generations, such as having capsule clothes," the civilian attire they change into once

inside the capsule to work the 24-hour shift. The clothes go straight into the laundry after a shift because they end up smelling metallic.

"Whenever you hear cancer' it's a little concerning," said



Doreen Jenness, the widow of Air Force Capt. Jason Jenness, holds up a photo of Jason during an interview with the Associated Press in Missoula, Mont. Capt. Jenness was a Malmstrom missileer who died of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2001 at the age of 31 File Photo

Lt Joy Hawkins, 23, a missileer at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

To Hawkins and fellow missileer Lt Samantha McGlinchey, who spoke to a visiting AP reporter as they completed an underground shift at launch control capsule Charlie, the news meant they would need to be diligent about

medical checkups. "There's more testing, things to come, cleanup efforts," McGlinchey, 28, said. "For us early in our careers, it's better to be caught so early."

Others worry the dangers will again be played down.

When the latest rounds of test results were released, the Air Force did not initially

reveal that samples showing contamination had critically higher PCB levels than EPA standards allow - and dozens of other areas tested were just below the EPA's threshold, said Steven Mayne, a former senior enlisted nuclear missile facility supervisor at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota who now runs a Facebook group that is dedicated to posting Air Force news or internal memos

"At this point the EPA, OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and senators from North Dakota and Montana need to look into this matter," Mayne said

In December 2022, former Malmstrom missileers Jackie Perdue and Monte Watts, both of whom have been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, asked the Defense Department's inspector general to investigate."I believe health and safety standards have been violated, or not considered, and should be investigated," said Perdue, who served as a nuclear missile combat commander crew at Malmstrom from 1999 to 2006, in an inspector general complaint obtained by the AP.

PAST EXPOSURES

There are currently three nuclear missile bases in the United States: F E Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, Minot and Malmstrom. Each base has 15 underground launch control capsules that act as hubs for fields of 10 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile silos each.

The capsules are manned around the clock, 365 days a year. Missileers spend 24 hours or more each shift working underground in those capsules monitoring the ICBMs, ready to launch them if directed by ment rooms.

the president. The Air Force acknowledges the current review can't provide full answers on what past missileers were exposed to, but the data will establish a health profile likely to help them apply for veterans benefits.

However, there are plenty of warning signs about past toxic risks in the documents obtained by AP.

"Type and content of asbestos, please phone ASAP," a handwritten note reads on memo dated Nov 9, 1992. All of the documents obtained by the AP have been redacted to have the names blocked out, but the urgency was evident. "PRIORITY," the handwritten

note says, in all caps. An environmental team at Malmstrom capsules Hotel and Juliet got worrisome asbestos readings from underneath a generator in the capsule equip-



Biggest aerial barrage: Russia fires 122 missiles, 36 drones

Russia launched 122 missiles and dozens of drones against Ukrainian targets, officials said on Friday, killing at least 24 civilians across the country in what an air force official said was the biggest aerial barrage of the war. The Ukrainian air force intercepted most of the ballistic and cruise missiles and the Shahed-type drones overnight, said Ukraine's military chief, Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

Air Force commander Mykola Oleshchuk wrote on his official Telegram channel that it was "the most massive aerial attack" since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. According to the Ukrainian air force, the previous biggest assault was in November 2022 when Russia launched 96 missiles against Ukraine. This year, the biggest was 81 missiles on March 9, air force records show.

Western officials and analysts recently warned that Russia had limited its cruise missile strikes in recent months in an apparent effort to build up stockpiles for massive strikes during the winter, hoping to break the Ukrainians' spirit.

Fighting along the front line is largely bogged down by winter weather after Ukraine's summer counteroffensive failed to make a significant breakthrough along the roughly 1,000-kilometre (620-mile) line of contact

Ukrainian officials have urged the country's Western allies to provide it with more air defences to protect itself against aerial attacks like Friday's one. Their appeals have come as signs of war fatigue strain efforts to keep support in place.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the huge attack should stir the world to further action in support of Ukraine. "These widespread attacks on Ukraine's cities show



Ukrainian servicemen carry the coffins of their comrades Vasyl Medviychuk and Dmytro Dosiak during a funeral ceremony in Verkhovyna on Thursday AP/PTI

In Boyarka, a city near Kyiv

but it spread quickly. "It's so

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the

Kremlin's forces used a wide

variety of weapons, including

"Today, Russia used nearly

The aerial attack that began

ballistic and cruise missiles.

President

scary," she said.

Ukrainian

(Russian President Vladimir) the debris of a shot-down drone Putin will stop at nothing to achieve his aim of eradicating fell on a home and started a fire. freedom and democracy, Andrii Korobka, 47, said his Sunak said on social media mother was sleeping next to the platform X, formerly Twitter. room where the wreckage landed and was taken to hospital suf-We must continue to stand fering from shock. "The war with Ukraine — for as long as goes on, and it can happen to it takes." Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said any house, even if you think yours will never be affected," the scale of the attack should wake people up to Ukraine's Korobka said. Tetiana Sakhnenko, who lives next door, continuing needs. "Today, millions of Ukrainians awoke to the loud said neighbours ran with buckets of water to put out the blaze

sound of explosions," he wrote on X. "I wish those sounds of explosions in Ukraine could be heard all around the world. In all major capitals, headquarters, and parliaments, which are currently debating further support Ukraine.

At least 130 people were every type of weapon in its arseinjured and an unknown numnal," Żelenskyy said on X. ber were buried under rubble Ukrainian Air Force spokesman during the roughly 18-hour Yurii Ihnat said Russia "apparonslaught, Ukrainian officials ently launched everything they have," except for submarine-launched Kalibr missiles, in the said. Among the buildings reported to be damaged across Ukraine were a maternity hosattack pital, apartment blocks and Thursday and continued

Chandigarh has filed a reference under

Poland says unidentified object entered its airspace

Warsaw (AP): Poland's armed forces said on Friday an unknown airborne object entered the country's airspace from the direction of Ukraine and subsequently vanished off radars. The Operational Command of the Armed Forces said on social media platform X, formerly Twitter, that the unidentified airborne object was observed by radars of Poland's air defense system from the moment it crossed the border until the signal disappeared.

It said troops have been mobilized to identify and find the object. Prime Minister Donald Tusk convened a meeting with the defense minister, military commanders and heads of national security bodies, to be followed by a meeting of the National Security Bureau. There were no immediate reports of any explosion or casualties. The governor of Lublin province in eastern Poland, Krzysztof Komorski, told the Onet news portal that the unidentified object appeared on radars near the town of Hrubieszow, where a border crossing with Ukraine is located.

through the night hit six cities including the capital, Kyiv, and other areas from east to west and north to south Ukraine, according to authorities.

Reports of deaths and damage came in from across the country. Five people were killed and 20 injured in the eastern city of Dnipro where four maternity hospital patients were rescued from a fire, officials said.

Chandigarh has filed a reference under

section-18 Chapter V-Delayed Payments to

Russian poet qets 7-yr prison sentence for reciting verses against war in Ukraine

Moscow (AP): A Russian poet was given a 7-year prison sen-tence Thursday for reciting verses against Russia's war in Ukraine, a tough punish-ment that comes during a relentless Kremlin crackdown on dissent.

Moscow's Tverskoi District Court convicted Artyom Kamardin on charges of making calls undermining national security and inciting hatred, which related to him reading his anti-war poems during a street performance in downtown Moscow in September 2022. Yegor Shtovba, who participated in the event and recited Kamardin's verses, was sentenced to 5 1/2 years on the same charges. The gathering next to the monument to poet Vladimir Mayakovsky was held days after President Vladimir Ýutin ordered a mobilization of 300,000 reservists amid Moscow's military setbacks in Ukraine. The widely unpopular move prompted hundreds of thousands to flee Russia to avoid being recruited into the military. Police swiftly dispersed the performance and soon arrested Kamardin and several other participants.

Russian media quoted Kamardin's friends and his lawyer as saying that police beat and raped him during the arrest. Soon after, he was shown apologizing for his action in a police video released by pro-Kremlin media, his face bruised. Authorities have taken no action to investigate the alleged abuse by police. During Thursday's hearing, Kamardin's wife, Alexandra Popova, was escorted out of the courtroom by bailiffs after she shouted "Shame!" following the verdict Popova, who spoke to journalists after the hearing, and several other people were later detained on charges of holding an unsanctioned "rally" outside the court

PTI BELJING

China on Friday named for-mer naval commander General Dong Jun, said to be a close confidant of President Xi Jinping, as the new defence minister, two months after the summary dismissal of General Li Shangfu without an explanation. China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), which confirmed Li's ouster in October, appointed Dong in his place, the official media reported.

Dong, formerly the commander of the Chinese navy, was promoted to the rank of general in September 2021, making him one of the highestranking officers in active service, the China Daily reported.

Regarded as a close confidant of President Xi, Dong was later elected to the Communist Party of China (CPC) in October last year. Before becoming the navy's top commander in 2021, he served in the Northern Sea Fleet, now a regular player in joint drills with the Russian Navy, the Eastern Sea Fleet, which focuses on

potential conflicts with Japan, as well as the Southern Command Theatre, which oversees the South China Sea, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

China appoints former top naval

commander as new def minister

The appointments for the top defence posts are cleared by President Xi, who is also the head of the Central Military Commission (CMC), besides being the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC). Before Li, Foreign Minister Qin Gang was also removed without an explanation. Qin was replaced by Wang Yi as Foreign Minister. Earlier this year Qin succeeded Wang as the country's top diplomat. The fates of both Li and Qin are not known.

Li had disappeared from the public eye in late August and no reason was given for his removal. Li, who headed the country's missile force, was the first Chinese defence minister to be placed on a US sanctions list because of arms sales from Russia and was the second government minister abruptly removed from his post this vear.

The new defence minister Dong's appointment comes in the backdrop of the recent agreement between the US and China to revive their stalled contacts between the top defence officials, following the recent summit between Xi and US President Joe Biden. China has discontinued military contacts as a protest to the former US House speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in August last year. On December 21, the militaries of China and the US revived talks with a video call between General Liu Zhenli, China's Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission, and General Charles Brown, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US military. "The video call yielded positive and constructive outcomes," Chinese Defence spokesman Sr. Col. Wu Qian told the media here on Thursday. The role of the Chinese navy is in ascendancy under Xi as it has overtaken the army with a massive expansion of its fleet of warships and nuclear and conventional sub-

the anti-corruption campaign,

in which, according to official

media accounts, over a million

officials, including several top military generals, were pun-ished. The intensity of the

campaign also attracted criti-

cism that Xi made effective use

of it to silence his critics and

rivals within the party and the

Committee of the NPC, which

is restricted to a smaller num-

ber of legislators, also

announced that the annual

session of the Parliament will

be held on March 5, next year.

The NPC, along with the

national advisory body, the Chinese People's Political

Consultative Conference

(CPPCC) every year will hold

their annual sessions to con-

duct legislative business for

Meanwhile, the Standing

government.

marines.

world 10

China amends criminal law to punish bribe-givers

PTI BEIJING

Days after President Xi Jinping exhorted people to maintain personal integrity, China on Friday amended its criminal law to punish those giving bribes to officials as part of its anti-corruption drive.

An amendment to the Criminal Law was passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature. The amended law, which will take effect on March 1, has intensified the fight against bribe-givers, stating that those offering bribes repeatedly, to multiple people, or parties involved in major national projects should be harshly punished. People who give bribes to staff members of superviso ry, administrative, or judicial departments, or bribe in fields such as environment, finance, safety production, drug and food, social insurance, rescue relief, education, or healthcare, also need to face severe punishment, the law added.

On December 4, President Xi warned senior ruling Communist Party officials to maintain personal integrity, set strict rules for relatives to keep them away from corruption and refrain from blindly following "foreign examples" and reckless actions. The top officials "must set strict rules for their family members, relatives, and staff workers around them when it comes to the efforts against corruption," Xi told a meeting of the Politburo of the ruling Communist Party of China.

Since he took over the leadership of the party in 2012, Xi has been continuing with

1,151 BGB platoons on patrol across **Bangladesh ahead of Jan 7 polls**

MICRO & SMALL ENTERPRISES **MICRO & SMALL ENTERPRISES** MICRO & SMALL ENTERPRISES MICRO & SMALL ENTERPRISES FACILITATION COUNCIL FACILITATION COUNCIL FACILITATION COUNCIL FACILITATION COUNCIL Plot No. 39, INDL. AREA, PHASE-II, Plot No. 39, INDL. AREA, PHASE-II Plot No. 39, INDL. AREA, PHASE-II, Plot No. 39, INDL. AREA, PHASE-II, CHANDIGARH CHANDIGARH CHANDIGARH CHANDIGARH Email id: dimsmeutchd@gmail.com Email id: dimsmeutchd@gmail.com Email id: dimsmeutchd@gmail.com Email id: dimsmeutchd@gmail.com Case No. 224/202 Case No. 224/2021 Case No. 224/202 Case No. 224/2021 Public Notice Public Notice **Public Notice Public Notice** M/s AARUSHI AGENCIES PVT. LTD., M/s AARUSHI AGENCIES PVT. LTD. M/s AARUSHI AGENCIES PVT. LTD. M/s AARUSHI AGENCIES PVT, LTD., PLOT NO 701, INDUSTRIAL AREA, building. PHASE-1, CHANDIGARH PHASE-1, CHANDIGARH PHASE-1, CHANDIGARH PHASE-1, CHANDIGARH Petitione Petition Petitione Vs. Vs. M/s SAI PRINT & PACK, VILLAGE M/s ARAVALI PRINTERS AND M/s RT PACKAGING LIMITED, PLOT NO. M/s R.S. PRINT SOLUTIONS PVT. LTD., DUDHOLA, PRITHILA DHATIR ROAD, PUBLISHERS PVT. LTD. W-30, OKHLA 73-74, INDUSTRIAL AREA PHASE - II, PLOT NO. 118-B, PHASE-V, OPP. HPL LTD. PALWAL, INDUSTRIAL AREA PHASE-II, SECTOR 56 HSIDC, KUNDLI, SONIPAT, DARUHERA, REWARI HARYANA-121102 NEW DELHI-110020 HARYANA-123106 HARYANA-123106 Opposite Party Whereas M/S AARUSHI AGENCIES PVT Opposite Party **Opposite Party** Opposite Party Whereas M/S AARUSHI AGENCIES PVT Whereas M/S AARUSHI AGENCIES PVT. Whereas M/S AARUSHI AGENCIES PVT. LTD., Plot No-701, Industrial Area, Phase-I LTD., Plot No-701, Industrial Area, Phase-

LTD., Plot No-701, Industrial Area, Phase-I,

Chandigarh has filed a reference under

LTD., Plot No-701, Industrial Area, Phase-I Chandigarh has filed a reference under section-18 Chapter V-Delayed Payments to about a fortnight.

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Council	Council	Council	Council
U.T., Chandigarh	U.T., Chandigarh	U.T. Chandigarh	U.T., Chandigarh

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Security interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: 1.65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L059/2012/005PLC1350/29] ("Secured Creditor") the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 31.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery o Hore is basis of 51.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. for feddery of Rs. 23,75,463/. (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Three only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00235708, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 26.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 27.12.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SUDHEESH K and VRINDA SUDHEESH VRINDA SUDHEESH.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 16,10,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ten Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,61,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty One Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. SF-4, SECOND FLOOR, REAR MIDDLE SIDE, PLOT NO. B-213/1 BLOCK - B, MAIN SHALIMAR GARDEN, SAHIBABAD GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201005.

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

	50/-
Date : 27.12.2023	Authorized officer
Place : GHAZIABAD	Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor") the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 22.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 18,72,321/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Three Hundred Twenty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOI00179203, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 26.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 27.12.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from VAISHALI ANAND, KAMAL JEET and SANJAY.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 8,50,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 85,000/- (Rupees Eighty Five Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the **Reserve Price**

DESCRIPTION	IMMOVABLE	

FLAT NO. FF-6, FIRST FLOOR REAR MIDDLE, PLOT NO. B-1/74, DLF DILSHAD
EXTN, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 200111.

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

Date : 27.12.2023	Authorized offic
Place : GHAZIABAD	Indiabulls Housing Finance Limite

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ead with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls lousing Finance Ltd. [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor") he physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whateve Rs. 20,53,573/- (Rupes Twenty Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Three only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00318622, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest til 26.12.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and othe charges due to the Secured Creditor from DHARMENDRA and RAJNI.

ADDENDIX IV.A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 11.20.000/- (Rupee Eleven Lakh Twenty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,12,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twelve Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY			
FLAT NO. G-6 , GROUND FLOOR , REAR MIDDLE SIDE, PLOT NO. B-7, DLF DILSHAD EXTN II, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH – 201005.			
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor I.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in			
Date : 27.12.2023 Place : GHAZIABAD	Sd/- Authorized officer Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited		

APPENDIX IV-A

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Rearrance is in the by liven to the public in general and in particular to the Bolrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 31.01.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Part 1255 (2014) and the sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever Here's Datas on 51.01.2024 for the 2020 Finit, for ecoder of the second seco PANKAJ DEVI.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 16,85,000/- (Rupees** Sixteen Lakh Eighty Five Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,68,500/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Five Hundred** only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

-3, FIRST FLOOR, REAR LEFT HAND SIDE, PLOT NO. 703, OLD NO. 293. GALI NO. 1, SHYAM PARK MAIN, VILLAGE SAHIBABAD, PARGANA LONI GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201005.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. w ı. Foi dding, log on to www.auctior focus.in

Sd/-		Sd/-
fficer	Date : 27.12.2023	Authorized officer
	Place : GHAZIABAD	Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

 $B^{\text{angladesh}}_{\text{deployed a total of 1,151}}$ platoons of paramilitary border guards across the country to ensure that the January 7 general election can be held in a free, fair and peaceful manner amid a boycott by the main Opposition BNP and its allies.

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel will work in tandem with the police, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), and armed forces for 13 days surrounding the January 7 polls, starting on Friday. Typically, each platoon consists of around 30 BGB troopers. From December 29 to January 10, the BGB will operate as a mobile and striking force to ensure security in constituencies across the country, includ-

the paramilitar force said. Army personnel will be deployed across the country from January 3 to January 10 to help maintain law and order before, during, and after the upcoming national polls. Ailing former premier Kĥaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is carrying out an anti-election street campaign, calling for intermittent strikes and transport blockades, saying no election under the incumbent government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would be fair or neutral. The BNP has also called for civil disobedience against the Awami Party-led dispensation, urging people not to pay taxes and utility bills to press its demand for a nonparty interim government for election oversight by amending

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.

Since October 29, the BNP has been holding intermittent nationwide strikes and transport blockades. According to a media tally, 11 people died, 386 vehicles were torched, and four 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 Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, over charges of violence. Hasina, 76, also the President of the Awami Party, 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 Áwami League in 2004 in which 24 people were killed. Hasina narrowly escaped the attack, which also wounded some 500 of her party leaders, activists and supporters.

4 Indians among 500 climbers conquer Mt Everest **70TH ANNIV YEAR OF FIRST SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT**

PTI KATHMANDU

 $D_{\text{ing temperatures, melting}}^{\text{espite concerns about ris-}}$ glaciers and snow and increasing extreme weather events, the mountaineering community celebrated the 70th anniversary of scaling Mount Everest with around 500 climbers, including four Indians, making it to the summit in 2023.

Ever since New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Nepal's Sherpa Tenzing Norgay summited the 8,848.86 metres May 17. (29,032 feet) high Mt Everest, an Indian mountaineer with a pacemaker, died near the a.k.a. Sagarmatha in Nepali, on May 29, 1953, thousands of climbers from across the globe, including India and Nepal, attempting to climb the peak have been attracted to the highest peak in the world, scores of them reached the summit while many lost their lives. Official data showed that missing during their respective since 1953's Hillary-Norgay summit, around 7,000 moun taineers have successfully

scaled Mt Everest while over climbing Mt Everest 28 times 300 have lost their lives. with two summits this season The year 2023 was no

Suzanne Leopoldina Jesus,

Everest Base Camp while

on May 18. Officials said 11

climbers, including four

Chinese, died while eight went

Nepal's Kami Rita Sherpa

expeditions to Mt Everest.

on May 17 and May 23. Kami exception. A total of 478 Rita's record till 2022 was climbers, including 103 equalled by compatriot, Sherpa females, summited Everest in Pasang Dawa, 46, who made it the Spring of 2023, the only to the highest peak for the 26th narrow window available to time this year on May 14 and climb the extremely high altithe 27th time on May 17. But tudes. Four Indian nationals it is not just the Sherpa comstood atop Mt Everest and one munity that continued to break died in the high mountains this records and test human year. Yashi Jain, Mithil Raju, endurance in the rarified air of Sunil Kumar and Pinkhi Haris the high-altitude Himalayas in Chhed successfully scaled the Nepal. highest peak in the world on

Hari Budhamagar, 43, a double amputee ex-British Gurkha soldier scaled Mt Everest, scripted history by becoming the first in the category to scale the world's highest peak with artificial legs, on May 19. On the same day, May 19, Shrinivas Sainis Nepalese, one Indian and one Dattatraya, 39, an Indian-origin Singaporean climber went missing while returning from the summit of Mount Everest.

No expedition in the high-53, set a new world record of altitude Himalayas is com-

plete without the help of the Sherpa community that lives around the foothills of the snow-clad mountains. That also makes them the most vulnerable in the dangerous treks to the world's highest mountain region. Three Nepalese Sherpa guides -Themwa Tenzing Sherpa, Lakpa Rita Sherpa and Badure Sherpa - went missing on April 12 after a massive ice sheet of more than 50 metres tumbled down the mountain and buried them deep under five to six metres of snow on the most dangerous section of Mt Everest amidst an avalanche, making it the season's first accident at the world's tallest peak. Nepal granted a record 466 climbing permits, including 40 from India, for Mt Everest this spring, from climbers from 65 different countries. This broke the previous record of 2021, which was 409. In 2022, the number was 323.

Tottenham outplayed in 4-2 loss

Team top-four credentials in Premier League damaged

AP BRIGHTON (ENGLAND)

ottenham's top-four credentials were damaged by a miserable performance in a 4-2 loss at Brighton

NEW DELHI | SATURDAY | DECEMBER 30, 2023

in the Premier League. Late goals for Tottenham by Alejo Véliz and Ben Davies gave the score a respectable look but the visitors were outplayed at Amex Stadium by a Brighton team missing up to 10

players through injury. Jack Hinshelwood powered a shot into the roof of the net in the 11th minute and Joao Pedro converted a penalty in the 23rd after Dejan Kulusevski pulled back Danny Welbeck in the area

James Milner also struck the post for Brighton in a first half that saw Tottenham's defense missing injured center backs Cristian Romero and Micky van de Ven -- get sliced open time and again.



Richarlison also hit the post and had a goal ruled out for off-side for Tottenham before halftime substitute Pervis Estupinan made it 3-0 with a shot from 25 yards (meters) that flew into the top corner in the 63rd.

Joao Pedro scored his second again from the penalty spot - in the 75th after Evan Ferguson was fouled by Giovani Lo Celso, but Tottenham then rallied late.

Veliz netted his first Premier League goal after Kulusevski blocked Lewis Dunk's clearance straight to Son, who set up the Argentine forward in the 81st.

When Davies headed in Pedro Porro's cross four minutes later, a sensational comeback was potentially on but Brighton held on despite more chances for Tottenham, which would have jumped back into the top four with a victory.

ne pioneer

prize money by 13 per cent

AP MELBOURNE

Australian

Open hikes

ustralian Open tennis offi-Acials have announced an increase in prize money by 10 million Australian dollars (USD 6.8 million) for the upcoming tournament which begins on Jan. 14 at Melbourne Park.

Tournament director Craig Tiley said in a statement Friday that the Grand Slam tournament will now offer 86.5 Australian dollars (USD58.4 million) in total prize money. The U.S. Open announced in August that it was increasing its total prize money and player compensation to a record USD 65 million, which is the highest among the four Grand Slam

tournaments

US routs Swiss 11-3 at Hockey world juniors PTI GOTHENBURG (SWEDEN)

Timmy Snuggerud scored three goals for a natural hat trick in the first 12 minutes to help the United States rout Switzerland 11-3 in the world junior hockey championship. Will Smith opened the rout 1:20

into the game off a cross-ice pass from Zeev Buium for a onetimer near the net. Snuggerud got his first two minutes later and the University of Minnesota star added goals at 8:11 and 12:36

Tied with Slovakia for the Group B lead, the U.S. (2-0) led 9-1 after two periods. The Americans outshot Switzerland 40-24, with Jacob Fowler making 21 saves. "I liked our start," coach David

Carle said. "We made them uncomfortable early and that was important. It was a good win and now we'll turn our attention to an excellent Czech team.



and an assist, and Buium, Ryan Leonard, Isaac Howard, Quinn Finley and Eric Pohlkamp also scored, and Frank Nazar III had four assists, and Cuttre Gauthier had three.

On Friday at Frolundaborg Arena, the U.S. Will play a Czech Republic team that is 1-1 and coming off an 8-1 rout of Norway on Wednesday.

In the only other game Thursday, Sweden beat Germany 5-0 in Group A at the Scandinavium. Otto Stenburg had three goals and Melker Thelin made 15 saves. The Swedes (2-0) have

outscored their opponents 11-0 so far in the tournament Snuggerud also had an assist. Gavin Brindley had two goals ahead of a Friday night show-down with Canada (2-0).

Djokovic, Swiatek arrive for United Cup

AP PERTH (AUSTRALIA)

he United Cup tennis tour-I nament began Friday with Spain playing Brazil and Australia taking on Britain in the higher-profile late match at Perth, Western Australia.

The tournament involving mixed teams from 18 countries is being played in Perth and Sydney, where matches begin on Saturday. Two quarterfinalists will be determined from each of the Perth and Sydney group games with the semifinals and the Jan. 7 final set for Sydney.

The format sees men's and women's singles matches played ahead of mixed doubles, the same used by the highlysuccessful Hopman Cup that was formerly played in Perth. No. 1-ranked woman Iga Swiatek is representing Poland and playing in Perth. Top-ranked and defending Australian Open champion



Novak Diokovic has arrived to represent Serbia, also in Perth. Serbia will take on China on Sunday and Czech Republic on Tuesday in the group stage, with Djokovic set to face world No. 58 Zhang Zhizhen and No.31-ranked Jiri Lehecka in his men's singles matches. Djokovic won three Grand

Slam singles titles this year, missing out on only Wimbledon, where he lost to

Carlos Alcaraz in the final in five sets. He has won the Australian Open a record 10 times among his record 24

Grand Slam singles titles. On his arrival in Perth, he reiterated he has no plans to retire. "I hope it's not (the) last (time), to be honest. I mean I always look forward coming back to Australia," Djoković said. "I always felt like I played my best tennis over the years (here) and had great support.'

Djokovic last visited Perth in 2013 when he played at the Hopman Cup.

"It feels great, it's been a while since I was here last," Djokovic said.

"I remember every single time I played in Perth it was great attendance, people love tennis, people love sport in Australia in general. So I don't expect anything less this time, and I'm sure it's going to be a blast for all of us.



Arsenal beaten 2-0 for 1st home loss in Premier League

AP LONDON

rsenal lost at home for A the first time since May as a 2-0 defeat to West Ham cost Mikel Arteta's team the chance to return to the top of the Premier League.

Goals by Tomas Soucek in the 13th minute and former Arsenal player Konstantinos Mavropanos in the 55th - combined with a stout defensive display - gave West Ham a surprising win at Emirates Stadium and continued a midseason blip by the Gunners.

That's just one win in its last four league matches for Arsenal, which was in first place for Christmas and needs to beat Fulham away on Sunday to be in that posi-tion heading into 2024. Arsenal is currently in sec-

ond place and two points behind Liverpool, which doesn't play again until New Year's Day.

It could have been an even bigger win for West Ham but Said Benrahma had a penalty saved by Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya in the sixth minute of stoppage time.

There was some controversy over the first goal, with cameras not showing definitively if the ball was out of play when Jarrod Bowen

at the start of the game - but losing one of their key players didn't put the visitors out of their stride. Bukayo Saka hit the post for Arsenal but the home side lacked its usual energy in attack and conceded again when James Ward-Prowse's corner was flicked home off the underside of the crossbar by Mavropanos, whose celebration was muted because of his previous links to

turned it back into the area

for Soucek to force home. Bowen's leg blocked the best

sight of whether any of the

ball was in play and the ref-

eree stayed with the onfield

decision of giving the goal.

A similar situation occurred with Arsenal at

Newcastle, which scored the only goal of their game at St. James' Park on Nov. 4

amid debate over whether

the ball was in play as a cross came in for Anthony

Gordon's strike. West Ham lost Lucas

Paqueta to an apparent left

hamstring injury just after

the half-hour mark - the

Brazilian had been a doubt

Arsenal Arsenal last lost at home in mid-May to Brighton, a defeat that virtually ensured the title last season would be heading to Manchester City and not the Gunners.

Women Hockey team works with Rupinder Pal to address penalty corner woes

"We've upped prize money for every round at the Australian Open with the major increases no and early rounds of singles and doubles, Tiley said. At Melbourne, first-round qualifiers will receive a 20% increase to 31,250 Australian dollars (about USD 21,000). Men's and women's singles champions will receive \$3.15 million Australian dollars each (about \$2.15 million). The women's final, where Aryna Sabalenka is the defending champion, is set for Jan. 27. The men's final, where Novak Djokovic is the defending champion, is scheduled for for Jan.

PTI BENGALURU Tn order to fix its perennial

improvement. Ace women's drag flicker Kaur termed Gurii



Games, where they ended up Deepika, who regularly takes the deal with mis-trapped balls," with a bronze medal. tournament Indi earned 69 penalty corners and converted just 16 of them at an average of 23.1 percent. That Achilles' heel haunted them in the semifinal against hosts China as India could not score off the six penalty corners they earned

penalty corner, said Rupinder noted Deepika. shared the nuances about drag flicking such as the angle to take the shot and how to tackle the first-rushers from the opposition defence.

Rupinder

Lpenalty-corner woes, the Indian women's hockey team is engaged in a skill-sharpening exercise with legendary drag flicker Rupinder Pal Singh during the on-going five-day camp here ahead of next month's FIH Hockey Olympic

Qualifiers in Ranchi. Despite winning the recent Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi defeating Japan, India had wasted plenty of penalty corners, and coach Janneke Schopman had marked it as an area that needed urgent

that began on Wednesday at the SAI Bengaluru, as a perfect learning space ahead of the crucial qualifiers.

The Olympic qualifiers are scheduled to be held between January 13 and 19, 2024.

We are learning new things each day and looking to further improve our game by focusing on specific aspects that need refinement. Rupinder has been instrumental in guiding us.

"As we gear up for the upcoming tournaments, we are confident that the lessons learned here will contribute significantly to our performance on the field," said Guriit. It was not tough to see why

emphasised on Guriit improvement as the women outfit's shortcomings in penalty-corner conversion was quite evident in the Hangzhou Asian

Eventually, India lost that game 0-4

India nearly botched up the bronze medal match against Japan too as they could score only once from 11 penalty corners. However, they managed a 2-1 win over the Asian rivals.

"He shared insights on the first rushers, how they have become fearless and close down on the ball faster than before. To counter this, he advised us to pick up the ball faster.

We also picked his brain on how to beat the first rusher, determining the line the rusher follows, where to get the ball stopped, which angle to take the shot in, and how to

whopping 234 goals in 223 appearances before his retirement in 2021, said he was satis-fied by the lesson-intake ability of his wards. "Gurjit and Deepika are excep

tional drag flickers. They quickly understand and implement my pointers. This crash course will be a fantastic way to brush up their skills before heading to Ranchi," said the towering full-back, who played a stellar role in India's bronzewinning effort in the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

The 29-year-old Vandana, from

Uttar Pradesh, had won gold in

the women's 76kg category in

Goa with a total lift of 207kg.

She is a bronze-medal winner

in 63kg category in both the 2013 and 2017 Commonwealth

Championships, besides finish-

ing fourth in 63kg class in the

2014 Commonwealth Games

Cyclist Anita Devi was hand-

ed provisional suspension by

the NADA on December 6

after her urine sample collect

ed on November 3 was found

to contain banned drug 19-

Norandrosterone, an anabolic

Devi was a member of the women's 4km pursuit team

from Manipur that won the

The Goa National Games were

held after a seven-year delay

due to issues related to build-

ing of infrastructure and a

huge number of dope offend-

androgenic steroid.

gold medal.

in Glasgow.

Final line will be drawn by players Prasanna, Chakkravarthy, Laxman headline strength of character: Stimac Chennai Open 2023 field

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

PTI CHENNAI

Indian Grandmasters Vishnu Prasanna, Deepan Chakkravarthy and RR Laxman will headline a strong field in the 2023 Chennai International Open Grandmaster Chess Tournament which starts here from December 31.

The tournament, which ends on January 7, 2024, has attracted over 320 entries, including 28 foreign players. India's Aronyak Ghosh (Elo 2545) is the top seed while Russian GM Savchenko Boris (Elo 2505) is seeded second. "This tournament offers a great opportunity for players who are in good form. It acts as a norm-seeker. One can even complete three IM and GM (norms) if they are in great form," said Tamil Nadu State Chess Association vicepresident B Murugavel during a press meet here on Friday. Some of the other GMs to participate in the event are: Fedorov Alexei (Belarus), Glek Igor (Belgium), Nguyen Duc Hoa (Vietnam),

Ziatdinov, Raset (USA),



Podolchenko Evgeniy (Belarus) and Manik Mikulas (Slovakia)

The Chennai Open is the third of the six GM competitions in India after the Meghalaya Open and Madurai Open, while Indore Open, Bengaluru Open and Bhubaneswar Open will follow this tournament. The total prize money for this

event is Rs 20,00,000 and the winner will be richer by Rs 4,00,000 and the runner-up will add Rs 3,00,000 to his account.



of character" will be the para-meter to decide who will be included in the final squad. India are clubbed with formi dable Australia, strong central Asian side Uzbekistan and tricky Syria -- all above Stimac's team in the FIFA rankings -- in the group stage of the Asian Cup from January 13 onwards. "All the boys in the (probable) list are similar in their football qualities. What we are looking for the final list of 26 is definite

ly experience, physical strength, and the final line will be drawn by the strength of their character," Stimac said on the All India Football Federation's social media handles. "This is very important for us

as a team, because no matter the talent, if there is no character nothing can be achieved, he added. Stimac will announce his final 26 players before the team's

departure on Saturday. Regarding areas which the



team needs improvement, he said, "I am looking for defensive compactness, offensive transition, and the set pieces mostly

"It's also very important to work on man marking inside the box, because I was not happy with that part of our game, in the last few games. We started leaking some unnecessary goals inside the box because marking was not properly done.

India will face Australia on January 13, before playing against Uzbekistan (January 18) and Syria (January 23). "All three opponents are tech-nically good, physically strong, with great speed. So, we are not going to have much difference

in approach of all these three games. "The main focus for us will be

to check the fitness level of our players at present and see how much we can develop in the next two weeks," he said. Stimac is also grappling with injuries to few of his key players. Defensive midfielder

Jeakson Singh, who underwent surgery on his left shoul-der early last month, was named among the 50 probables but he is uncertain to be in the final 26.

Midfielders Glan Martins and Shah Abdul Samad, both Mohun Bagan players, had suffered injuries recently, which has given more headache to Stimac.

Central defender Anwar Ali winger Ashique and Kuruniyan, two key players in Stimac's scheme of things, were not named in the 50-player list

due to long term injuries. The 1998 World Cup bronze medallist from Croatia said he wanted the players to believe in themselves and enjoy the game during the Asian Cup in Doha, where they will be playing in the stadiums which had hosted the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

"I am sure our fans will turn out in huge numbers to support the Blue Tigers and help them reach the needed level of con-fidence," he said while speaking to the AFC Asian Cup Local Organising Committee On talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri, the head coach said, "Chhetri is unbelievable. It's really important for our younger players to have such an inspirational figure as a captain. "I hope the team can make the nation proud by playing to the best of its abilities."

Stimac's former team-mate at West Ham and England World Cupper Trevor Sinclair will assist him as part of the Indian team coaching staff during the Asian Cup.

Over 20 sportspersons fail dope tests in Goa National Games in one of country's biggest hauls Weightlifting Federation told PTI.

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

More than 20 athletes from various sports have returned positive for banned drugs in tests conducted during the National Games in Goa in October-November in one of the biggest heaps of dop-

ing cases in the country. Most of the 20-odd dope offenders have been handed provisional suspension by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), which had collected dope samples from the partic-ipants in the October 25 to November 9 multi-sport event. Many have won medals in the Games while there were a few international players.

There were nine track and field athletes and seven weightlifters among the dope offenders, according to sources. The most prominent of the seven weightlifters who failed dope tests was Vandana Gupta, a double bronze-medal winner in the Commonwealth Championships

"Yes, seven weightlifters have failed dope tests during the Goa National Games and there could be more in the coming days," a source from the Indian

ers has now come out from the multi-sport event. 2015 National Games in Kerala had seen 16 dope positive cases while the count in the 2022 edition in Gujarat was 10.



JADEJA STARTS TRAINING, LIKELY TO PLAY 2ND TEST Avesh Khan added to Indian squad

A mid the doom and gloom following a humiliating defeat, the Indian cricket team has some good news as senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja could be available for the second Test against South Africa in Cape Town,

starting January 3. Jadeja missed the opening Test match after complaining of "upper back spasm" during the morning of the first day at the Supersport Park

However, on the third day of the first Test, those present at the ground saw Jadeja being a part of the warm-up session before the proceedings started in the middle.

The all-rounder didn't look in any sort of discomfort as he ran multiple 30 to 40 metre short strides during the morning session.

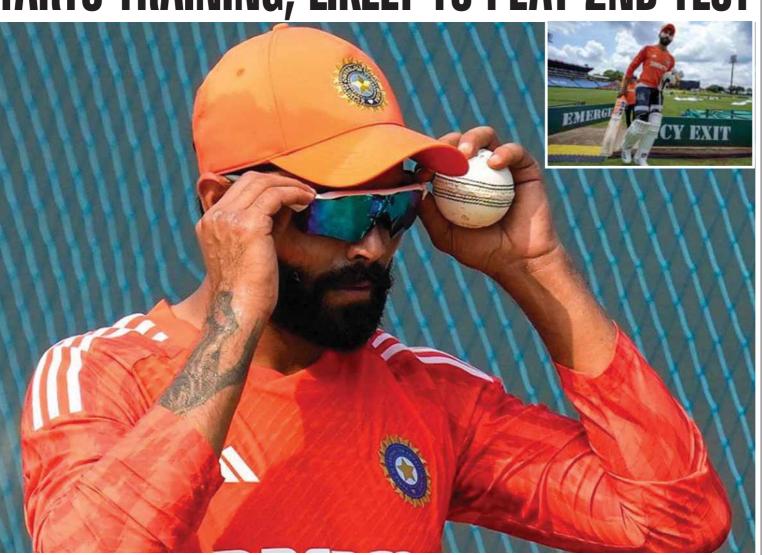
He also did a few fitness drills during the session.

But the most reassuring aspect was his bowling during the lunch break on the third day. Along with reserve pacer Mukesh Kumar, Jadeja, for close to 20 minutes, bowled on a practice track and was keenly watched by the team's strength and conditioning coach, Rajnikant.

He was mainly doing spot bowling although he himself has a two step run-ip. He was hitting the spot consis-

tently and was also seen getting to turn a few in the process. The best part was that he didn't look gingerly at all during

the short session when he was bowling.



India missed Jadeja the allrounder during their humiliat-ing innings and 32-run defeat in the opening Test.

While Ravichandran Ashwin bowled 19 overs to take 1 for 40, he never really looked threatening as Marco Jansen and Dean

Elgar played him comfortably. Jadeja the bowler might not have inflicted considerable damage but as a batter, who has

played some good knocks at Nos 6 and 7 in SENA countries, he could have made a difference.

With four more days left for the start of the second Test, there is every chance that he will play the match.

Krishna and Shardul Thakur while also keeping ace spinner Ravichandran Ashwin in the ster their pace attack for the second and final Test at Cape Town mix India lost the opening Test by an innings and 32 runs here on Thursday, the match ending in "This was not a 400-run wicket and we gave too many runs. We sprayed the ball all around, but three days it happens. One can't depend on ed to perform their roles, we

The right-arm fast bowler was named as a replacement for Mohammed Shami, who was ruled out of the two Tests as he did not get the necessary clear-ance from the BCCI medical team

PTI CENTURION

Aday after their embarrassing defeat to hosts South Africa

in the first Test, India called up

right-arm fast bowler Avesh

Khan on Friday in a bid to bol-

"The Men's Selection Committee has named Mr Avesh Khan as a replacement for Mr Mohd. Shami for the second Test against South Africa to be played from 3rd-7th January 2024 in Cape Town," the board said in

a release. The 27-year-old Avesh, who has so far claimed 149 wickets



sports 12

in 38 first-class games at 22.65, was a part of India's victorious

campaign in the three-match

ODI series against South Africa before the Tests in which he took

Avesh is currently busy repre-senting the India A side in their

four-day tour match against South Africa A at Benoni, where

he returned 23.3-5-54-5 to help bowl out the hosts for 263 in the

India captain Rohit Sharma lamented the poor support given by other bowlers to pace spear-

head Jasprit Bumrah after the

visitors suffered one of their

worst defeats in South Africa.

India went into the Test with

four seam options in Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh

could learn from how South Africa bowled," Rohit told the

know his quality. All he wanted

was a bit of support which he didn't get. That happens. All three tried hard, bending their backs but didn't happen the way

we wanted to. "But games like these teaches

you a lot as to what you want to do as a bowling unit," Rohit

media after the match. "Bumrah bowled well and we all

six wickets.

first innings.

Elgar named captain for farewell Test against India **Prasidh's performance hints**

added

PTI CENTURION

Dean Elgar, who will retire at the end of the ongoing Test series against India, will lead the South African team in the final game of the two-match series in place of injured Temba Bavuma. Bavuma has been ruled out of the final Test of the series against ndia Cricket South (CSA) said after the conclusion of the first game here on Thursday.



India Women face stern challenge in 2nd ODI

PTI 📕 MUMBAI

test of character awaits AHarmanpreet Kaur's India Women here in the second ODI against Australia on Saturday if to end their losing streak at home against the rampant visitors and keep the threematch series alive. India were outplayed thoroughly in the first ÔDİ on Thursday at the Wankhede Stadium despite the hosts notching up their highest-ever total against Australia - 282/8 - riding on the brilliance of Jemimah Rodrigues (82) and Pooja Vastrakar (62 not out).

able to convert their starts as well. But the ask will be tough for India to put this loss behind and recover quickly in a day's time for the second ODI, their sev-

(WTC)

AP MOUNT MAUNGANUI (NEW ZEALAND)

 $R^{ain \ washed \ out \ the \ second}_{Twenty20 \ international}$ between New Zealand and Bangladesh after only 11 overs Friday, leaving Bangladesh with 1-0 lead in the three-match

India fined for slow over-rate in 1st Test

PTI 🗖 DUBAI

India's heaviest defeat in South Africa in the first Test at Centurion came along with a fine of 10 per cent of their match fees and Rohit Sharma's team being docked two crucial points in the World Test Championship

India lost inside three days in an abject surrender to the South African side, suffering the heaviest defeat in the African nation

by an innings and 32 runs in the first of the two Tests. "Chris Broad of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match

Referees imposed the sanction after India were ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration," the ICC said in a release on Friday.

As per the Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which is in context to

at bare bench strength

minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for every over

their side fails to bowl in the stipulated time. Additionally, one point per each over short is docked by the ICC for its WTC, which means India

lost two points. "India captain Rohit Sharma pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing," the ICC added.

The charges were levelled by onfield umpires Paul Reiffel and Langton Rusere, third umpire Ahsan Raza and fourth umpire Stephen Harris. Before the penalty India were placed fifth in the points table with 16 points and a PCT of 44.44.

After the penalty, they've dropped below Australia to sixth spot with a PCT of 38.39. India play one more Test in South Africa before returning home.

"The problem is India's next gen-

takes that more time," a former Bengal teammate of Shami, eration of pacers don't evoke the aware of his situation told PTI same kind of excitement and on the condition of anonymity. confidence that Bumrah, Shami, Ishant and Siraj pro shoddy performanc must have set the alarm bells "Avesh is same type of bowler like Prasidh but plays red ball cricket more regularly. So he might hit better lengths. Navdeep Saini is still playing India A for six years. That tells you the story," the bowler, who refused to be named, said. Shardul Thakur's long rope as bits and pieces cricketer also might come to an end as he is neither looking menacing with the ball nor dependable with the panic that has set in among the bat. Had Hardik Pandya been inter-ested in playing red ball cricket, Shardul wouldn't have been in the horizon of Tests but with lack of good multi-skilled cricketers in domestic set-up, he is considered to be the best among whatever talent is available in store. India might still handle this WTC cycle but possessing a bowling attack with an ability to take 20 sticks is a distant real itv.

When it came to defending the total, India used seven different bowlers including Harmanpreet (3-0-32-0) but to no avail, as Australia romped home with more than three overs and six wickets to spare. India's crushing defeat was not

only their eighth consecutive at home but the manner in which the hosts went down would create some concerns in the dressing room.

After Sneh Rana flew to her left to take a diving catch to get rid of Alvssa Healv in the first over off Renuka Singh, India's fielding dropped and plenty of errors in the field assisted the Australian pair of Phoebe Litchfield and Ellyse Perry as they piled up a 148-run stand for the second wicket.

India's new ball bowlers, particularly Vastrakar, could not impose themselves and the fate was same for the senior spinners Deepti Sharma (1/55) and Rana, who had created a lot of trouble for the visiting batters during the one-off Test at this venue last week.

As it was the case on her T20I debut, Saika Ishaque (6-0-48-0) faced troubles settling down as a bowler and plenty of mistakes in the field only added to the team's woes.

Before Rodrigues and Vastrakar rescued India with their 68-run stand for the eighth wicket, India were struggling with the bat with most of the batters not

last 23 days in this packed home

season Playing top-flight cricket consistently could take its toll and India Women will have to find their ways around it as they play an overall 11 matches across formats in a mere 35 days. It also remains to be seen if vice-

captain and key opening batter Smriti Mandhana, who missed the first ODI for being unwell, would be available for the second match.

Similarly, there were no further updates on Rodrigues than that she struggled with hydration issues. The right-handed batter, at one stage during her innings, ran towards the team dugout to throw up as she battled intense heat and humidity while producing one of her finest innings

at the biggest stage. The biggest challenge, however, for the think tank as well as those on the field, would be to find

prime form. The pitch for the first ODI was a batting-friendly surface and is not expected to be a lot different for the remaining two matches at this venue, which implies bowling would be India's biggest concern going into this contest.

For Australia, it was a near-perup a fine show in the field even death overs.

overs in one final push which made Australia's task only tougher, but death overs bowling and batting is one area that the visitors want to improve upon.

series.

The match began on time and New Zealand was 72-2 after 11 overs when the heavy rain which had fallen throughout the day in this seaside city returned to Bay Oval.

The third match of the series will be played at the same venue on Sunday

Bangladesh won the toss Fridav and sent New Zealand in as it did in the first match of the series, which it won by five wickets for its first ever T20 win over New Zealand in New Zealand. Finn Allen again fell early, dismissed in the second over, but Tim Seifert struck six fours and

a six in a quickfire innings of 43 from 23 balls. Bangladesh had begun to curtail

the New Zealand run rate when the rain returned. Players left the field at 8 p.m. And umpires called off the match just before 10 p.m.

cricket test on Friday.

ways to stop this long and daunting Australian batting lineup. The Indians will also have to find a way to stop the Australian vice-captain Tahlia McGrath, who has struck three fifties on this tour already and looks in

fect outing with the team putting though they leaked runs in the

India scored 56 off the final six but Cummins ended the 67-run

clear that no coach can claim

credit to have created a pacer of Mohammed Shami's calibre. On the second and third day of the first Test against South Africa when Dean Elgar, David

Bedingham and Marco Jansen were making a mockery of Shardul Thakur and debutant Prasidh Krishna, Shami's absence

PTI CENTURION

A few weeks ago, India's bowl-ing coach Paras Mhambrey

was felt like never before. It could be said with a degree of certainty that Prasidh might have played his first and last Test for some time and in the next game Ravindra Jadeja and Avesh Khan would walk into the playing XI in place of him and Shardul Thakur.

The Indian fans got a reality check that the country's second line of red ball bowlers aren't exactly finished products and the days of dominance due to Jasprit Bumrah, Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Ishant Sharma and Umesh Yadav could be all but

and Bumrah without Shami is incomplete and the vice versa is equally true. Siraj is the third angle to the triangle.

"Shami has a chronic left heel issue. A lot of people don't know that he took injections regularly during World Cup and played the entire tournament through pain.

as you grow older, recovery from each niggle or big injury

ringing in the Indian camp. While Rohit Sharma, as any skipper would do publicly, backed the Bengaluru man, who was playing only his 13th

first-class game, the manner in which Avesh Khan was summoned by the Indian team management after his five-wicket haul for India A indicated the

"Poor Prasidh... The kid isn't ready for Test cricket. He doesn't have skills to bowl second and third spells yet. They went with him based on his ability to hit the deck. But they forgot when has he last played a proper season of Ranji Trophy? Just one India A game isn't enough, a former India bowler told PTI. He said that even Avesh's inclusion wouldn't make much of a difference unless he is given a

Bavuma sustained an injury while fielding on Day 1 of the Test match and as a result, played no further part in the game after scans revealed a hamstring strain.

In his absence, Elgar will captain the side in the final match of his international career, having announced his decision to retire before the series.

After Bavuma went off the field during the first Test, Elgar auring the first fest, Elgar assumed the role of the captain in South Africa's win by an innings and 32 runs at SuperSport Park.

Elgar was named the Player of the Match for his fine century in the opening Test.

Zubayr Hamza will replace Bavuma in the squad for the final Test to be played in the at Cape Town from January 3.

"And that is why he is one of the best bowlers in the world."

Australia was out for 262 in its

second innings after losing 4-75

during the morning. Wicket-keeper Alex Carey (53) helped push Australia's lead over the

crucial 300-mark with his high-

Cummins leads way as Australia beats Pakistan by 79 runs

scheduled close of play. Australia reviewed a not out call AP MELBOURNE (AUSTRALIA)

aptain Pat Cummins' sec-ond 10-wicket total in test to Rizwan as a Cummins delivery flew into Alex Carey's gloves. But after a long review matches led Australia to a 79from the third umpire, Richard run win over Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Illingworth deemed the ball flicked Rizwan's wrist band the fourth day of the second that was connected to his Cummins made all the crucial gloves. Rizwan was the furious breakthroughs late in the day as with the decision, with Pakistan 219-5 at the time and starting to the hosts bowled Pakistan out believe it could pull off the for 237 to win the Boxing Day test and extend Pakistan's losing country's highest successful run in Australian tests to 16 winning chase against Australia. "I got a little bit twitchy there," Cummins said. "I felt OK but matches. Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha threatened they were batting nicely. Happy to push Pakistan towards a win

partnership between the pair in It was Cummins who claimed the crucial wicket of his opposbizarre and dramatic fashion ing captain Shan Masood (60), just 15 minutes before the

with the Rizwan wicket.



before tea. Cummins took his fourth of the second innings just minutes later, dismissing Aamir Jamal (0)

The wickets earned him the player of the match award and made him the 10th Australian to pass 250 test wickets.

At seven wickets down, Australia opted to take the extra 30 minutes in a bid to complete the match on Friday instead of coming back for day five.

'The game kept turning. Sometimes it went Australia's way, sometimes ours," Masood said. "But when we were leading with bat when me and Abdullah had a good partnership (in the first innings), Pat Cummins came in with that spell

est score since the first test of the Ashes in June. Pakistan fast bowler Shaheen Afridi (4-76) made a return to form with his best figures of the series, while fellow left-armer Mir Hamza added 4-32. Australia won the first test in

Perth by 360 runs.

The third test in the three-match series is scheduled to begin Jan. 3 at the Sydney Cricket Ground, where Pakistan won its last test in Australia in 1995.

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over. Ishant and Umesh are unofficially done with their Test careers and Shami is nearer to end rather than start. ranks.

They say it takes two to tango

"But you must understand that

long rope.