

OPINION 6
IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
TAKING OVER THE CONTROL?

WORLD 9
OVER 4 LAKH AFGHANS RETURN
HOME FROM PAKISTAN

MONEY 10
SENSEX, NIFTY FALL
FOR SECOND DAY

CHANDIGARH, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹ 2



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



MBAPPÉ REACHES
300 CAREER GOALS
FASTER THAN MESSI
11 SPORT

Complete Chaos in Uttarkashi

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A tense situation persists for the 41 workers trapped in the Silkyara tunnel since November 12. Despite it being the ninth day of their ordeal, authorities on Monday are still grappling to devise effective rescue strategies, leaving the fate of the stranded individuals in a precarious balance between hope and despair. As delays continue, discussions have begun to circulate about the potential man-made nature of this catastrophe, raising questions about Government officials' negligence and a lack of consideration for basic scientific principles in executing infrastructure projects in the vulnerable Himalayan region. Amid the challenges, there is a glimmer of hope, as international tunnelling expert Arnold Dix has arrived at the disaster site to assess the ongoing rescue efforts. Dix, who leads the Geneva-based International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association, brings his expertise to contribute to the rescue mission. Rescuers on Monday pushed through a six-inch-wide pipeline through the rubble of the collapsed Silkyara tunnel, a breakthrough that will help them supply larger quantities of food and possibly allow live visuals of the trapped workers. So far, a four-inch existing tube was being used to supply oxygen and items like dry fruit and medicines into the section

of the tunnel beyond the rubble of the collapsed portion of the under-construction tunnel on the Char Dham route in Uttarakhand. As the rescue operations unfold, experts are raising concerns about the Government's oversight during the planning and initiation of this project. Criticisms include questions about the project's approval despite concerns about fragile rock strata and the absence of an escape tunnel in the Silkyara project. This has led to speculation about whether due diligence was exercised before the project's implementation. The 4,531 metre long Silkyara tunnel being constructed under the Radi Pass area is to join the Gangotri and Yamunotri axis at a cost of ₹853.79 crore under the ambitious Char Dham all-weather road project. Geologists, scientists, and environmentalists have been asserting that landslides have increased along the roads since the commencement of the all-weather road project. Founder of Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation (HESCO) and Padma Bhushan recipient Anil Prakash Joshi said the Silkyara incident appears to be a lapse by the construction company. The work in the mountains is slower and different than work in the plains. It is necessary to consider the geological features of the fragile Himalayas and climate change while taking up infrastructure develop-



International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association president Arnold Dix near the site after a portion of an under-construction tunnel between Silkyara and Dandalgaon on the Brahmakhal-Yamunotri national highway collapsed in Uttarkashi district on Monday

PTI

ment. He said construction work in the mountains is being done just like the work in the plains and this must be looked into. "We need infrastructure development in our mountains but it has to factor in the geological aspect of the terrain and the impact of climate change which is now a reality," Joshi said. He said sustainable development has to keep science at the heart of all planning and execution. MPS Bisht, Geologist at HNB

Garhwal Central University, said whenever taking up such massive engineering work, it is of vital importance to conduct thorough geotechnical and geophysical mapping of the specific rock on which the tunnel is to be constructed. The exercise is a must before initiating any infrastructure project in the mountains. While the work is in progress, one must consistently uphold and monitor the safety measures. "The rock conditions vary so geophysical mapping gives

details of the rock quality across the mountain. The load-bearing capacity of the mountain rocks is also to be looked at before taking up such projects. For sustainable development, the prescribed checks and set norms have to be strictly followed to avoid any loss in the future," Bisht said. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a telephonic conversation with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhani on Monday. The PM sought information about the current

status of the rescue operation. Now, the authorities are focusing on six options to rescue the stranded workers. National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHID-CL) director Anshu Manish Khalkho called it the "first breakthrough" at the site. "We have sent the pipe 53 metres to the other side of the rubble and the trapped workers can hear and experience us," he said. "First achievement, big achievement. The next step is the more vital one and the most important — that is to get them out intact, happy," his colleague Col Deepak Patil said. Drones and robots from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have also been brought to the site to look into the possibility of other escape routes for the trapped men. Rescue workers were yet to resume the horizontal boring through the debris after a boulder appeared to block the progress of the heavy-duty auger machine earlier this week. But an official statement said this was scheduled to begin in the evening. The first machine for construction of a vertical rescue shaft — possibly around 80-metre deep — by drilling from near the hilltop has also reached the tunnel. A road to the hilltop has been laid, and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is arranging for more equipment, the statement said.

Kartarpur Sahib desecrated

PTI/AGENCIES ■ LAHORE

Condemnation poured in after a video of the desecration of Pakistan's Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara went viral. Jagdip Singh Kahlon, the General Secretary of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, has alleged that alcohol and meat were served during a dance party held by Project Management Unit (PMU) on the premises of the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Punjab province. The party was organised at the reception of the gurdwara on November 18. However, days after the video, the authorities on Monday dismissed the report. Two PMU officials told PTI that alcoholic beverages were not served or there was no dance at the reception held on November 18. The officials said the video which showed alcohol at the dinner party "must have been doctored for propaganda purposes". The officials also clarified that the dinner reception was held about two kilometres from the Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in the Project Management Unit (PMU) complex. Inaugurated on November 9, 2019, on the eve of the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak, the first Guru of Sikhism, Kartarpur has a special significance in the Sikh religion as Guru Nanak had spent the last years of his life at the

place. Separately, the PMU in a statement said a dinner reception was held last weekend for stakeholders for the development of Phase-II of Kartarpur and providing better facilities to the visitors. "On Saturday night (November 18) the PMU hosted an informal dinner at Kartarpur in which heads or their representatives of all important Government departments of district Narowal, including the judiciary, district administration, police, Rangers, Customs, Anti-Narcotics officials and journalists attended the dinner, the PMU said in the statement. It said the purpose of the event was to enhance coordination and cooperation among all departments/stakeholders concerned with the deployment of Phase II of Kartarpur. It said Narowal Deputy Commissioner and all other participants assured of their complete cooperation and role in further development of Kartarpur and religious tourism. The visa-free Kartarpur corridor links Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Punjab's Gurdaspur district. The crossing allows devotees from India to visit Gurudwara Darbar Sahib, Narowal, some 130 kilometres from Lahore in Pakistan, from Gurudwara Dera Baba Nanak, Gurdaspur district, Punjab, India.

Visakhapatnam harbour blaze destroys 35 boats

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

A fire broke out in a jetty area where in which at least 35 fishing boats were gutted, even as the police launched a hunt for 10 to 15 persons who allegedly partied in one of the boats, officials said on Monday. The fire broke out around 11.30 pm on Sunday in a boat owned by Balaji in zero jetty and was doused by 4 am on Monday, officials said. However, no death or injury was reported in the accident, the officials added. Visakhapatnam Harbour Assistant Commissioner of Police B Moses Paul said police are probing the role of the group of 10 to 15 people who quarrelled over a transaction. "After a boat caught fire, the group untied it and pushed it into the sea but it drifted back towards the boats and sparked a bigger fire," Paul told PTI. The blaze occurred in an area near the Visakhapatnam Container Terminal and an Indian Oil Corporation facility where fishing boats were anchored. Police received the names of the persons involved in the skirmish while Paul said more clarity over the cause of the fire will emerge on questioning them. Though 25 fire tenders were



Flames and smoke rise after a fire broke out in a jetty area in Visakhapatnam early on Monday

PTI

pressed into service from across the city over time, it was the Navy's Sahara firefighting boat which managed to extinguish the flames by spraying foam and sand, he said. According to Paul, the fire tenders could not put off the blaze initially because almost every boat had diesel and cooking gas cylinders. Every 10 to 15 minutes, he said those cylinders exploded.

Visakhapatnam Deputy Commissioner of Police-Zone II K Ananda Reddy said the intervening night of Sunday and Monday was quite windy, causing the fire to spread quickly among the boats made of fibre (plastic) and anchored closely. "Many of these boats also carry up to 5,000 litres of diesel as the fishermen venture into the sea for weeks. Many boats also car-

ried LPG cylinders which the fisherfolk use for cooking," Reddy added. Considering the critical location of the fire, Reddy said the Vizag Steel Plant fire brigade and the Navy were also alerted, while controlling the fire without further spread proved to be a big task. Visakhapatnam District Fire Officer S Renukayya said he received a call about the acci-

dent around 1 am, prompting him to rush firefighters and 12 fire tenders initially, including seeking help from the National Disaster Response Force and the Visakhapatnam Port Trust. According to Renukayya, the firefighters managed to control the fire from spreading to other boats in the vicinity within half an hour but it took almost two hours to douse the fire completely. According to estimates, each boat is valued between ₹35 lakh and ₹50 lakh, Ananda Reddy said. Police booked a case of accidental fire, he added. Paul said the port city has about 11 jetties, each of which could accommodate the anchorage of up to 60 fishing boats. Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed sorrow over the fire accident and directed Fisheries Minister Seediri Appalaraju to personally visit the accident spot. The Chief Minister directed officials to carry out a thorough investigation and find the reasons for it, said an official statement. Further, the CM instructed officials to support the fishermen who lost their boats and help them in whatever way possible.

Religare refutes media reports

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL) on Monday refuted the allegations levelled against its Chairman Rashmi Saluja with regard to excessive remuneration, terming those as "completely false and erroneous". In a strongly worded response, the Board expressed its shock and disappointment at the allegations, emphasising that they are not isolated to Dr Rashmi but are a targeted attack on the entire Management and Board. The statement comes with in days of proxy advisory firm InGovern Research alleging that Saluja was paid excessive remuneration. Religare said the performance-linked remuneration was paid to Saluja after approval of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC), Board, and the shareholders of REL. "The allegation that the executive chairperson draws a remuneration of more than ₹150 crore per annum is completely false and erroneous. As per the annual report for FY 22-23 of REL, the remuneration for the Executive Chairperson was ₹8.12 crore. Even after including the perquisites value of the ESOPs,

it reached a figure of ₹42.06 crore," Religare said in a statement. It further said that Saluja was reappointed as the Executive Chairperson in February 2023 for a second term for a five-year period through a resolution by the Board and approval of shareholders. This period has witnessed a historic revival, with Religare completing a one-time settlement of REL (Religare Finvest Limited) through organic collections and payments exceeding ₹9000 crores to the country's banking system. Religare further said that Saluja was instrumental in creating value for all the shareholders of REL. The share price of REL, which saw a low of ₹17 in 2020, rose to a high of ₹280 in September 2023. "The ESOP perquisite value is also reflective of this significant value creation a part of which was also shared by her as a shareholder/employee of the company," Religare added. Currently, Religare management is engaged in a tussle with the Burman family, promoters of FMCG major Dabur India. Burman family which has hiked its stake in Religare through creeping acquisition to

around 26 per cent, is now proposing to make an open offer for acquiring another 25 per cent stake in the financial services company. As per market regulator Sebi rules, it is mandatory for a company to make an open offer of 26 per cent to all shareholders. Religare also denied that the Burman family, at a meeting on September 20, had informed Saluja of a proposed open offer. The Burman family, it may be mentioned, had announced an open offer to buy additional share of REL at ₹235 apiece, amounting to a total consideration of up to ₹2,115 crore in cash. Religare had objected to the open offer price and sought an independent valuation report. On allegations that Saluja had liquidated the ESOPs after meeting a representative of the Burman family on September 20, the Religare statement said, "The process of liquidation of ESOPs through financing and sale was set in motion several days before the said meeting." The actual sale, it added, happened on September 21 and 22 at the prevalent market price and the share sale proceeds were utilised to further invest in Religare group entity.

Retired bureaucrat gives all to Ram Lalla in sacred pledge

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Inspired by the devotional Isentiment of Sanatan Dharma, a retired bureaucrat has offered his life's earnings, totaling ₹5 crore, in obeisance to Lord Vishnu with the words, "Tera Tujhko Arpan; Kyaa Laage Mera" (it is all yours and nothing mine). This contribution is dedicated to the construction and related paraphernalia for the completion of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The temple is scheduled to open its doors in January 2022. The devotee has not only dedicated his financial savings but also all his movable and immovable property to the purpose of Bhakti. Inspired by the lines from Lord Vishnu's Aarti, "My offering to you, what will I like?" S Lakshmi Narayanan, former Union

Home Secretary of the 1970 IAS batch, has devoted his life's earnings to Ram Lalla. Although the donor has chosen not to seek public credit, sources in the Temple Trust reveal that, following the consecration of Lord Ram, the donor has committed to commissioning a 151 kg Ramcharitmanas at a cost of ₹5 crore, which will be installed in front of the idol. Each page of this epic, comprising 10,902 verses, will be crafted from copper. The emerald will be dipped in 24-carat gold, and gold-studded letters will be inscribed. This ambitious endeavor will necessitate 140 kg of copper and five to seven kg of gold, with other metals being employed for decoration. To fund the creation of this unique book, Narayanan has made the decision to sell all his properties and empty his bank



accounts. The resulting work, the 'Manas', will be reverently placed near the feet of Ramlala, as revealed by sources within the trust to *The Pioneer*. Narayanan, who recently visited the holy town of Ayodhya with his wife, sought permission from Champat Rai, the General Secretary of the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, regarding his desire to make a donation. The largest asset financing NBFC in India announced the

election of Narayanan as Chairman by the Board of Directors of the company in a board meeting held in Colombo on January 24, 2015. Narayanan has served as an Independent Director of STFC since September 2009. In addition to his distinguished career in civil services, Narayanan has also served as Chairman in a major finance company. In an interview with Rai, it was mentioned that around ₹1,800 crore is expected to be spent on the construction of the Ram Temple. Rai also stated that 70,000-75,000 people could have easy darshan if the temple is open for 12 hours. Sources reveal that the firm responsible for preparing the design for the new Parliament has agreed to create the gold-studded Ramcharitmanas. In a brief interaction with the temple community, the retired

IAS officer shared that he received his name due to a vow made to Goddess Lakshmi. During pregnancy, his mother had prayed at Delhi's Birla Temple, also known as Lakshmi Narayan Temple, pledging that if she had a son, she would name him Lakshmi Narayan. "God has blessed me abundantly throughout my life. I have held prominent positions and my life has been prosperous. Even after retirement, I continue to receive a significant income. Despite this, I am a person of simple tastes, content with basic necessities. My pension remains largely untouched. I believe in returning what God has bestowed upon me. I find it more meaningful to offer His book at the feet of God rather than accumulating wealth in the name of charity," shared the former

Union Home Secretary, accompanied by his wife Saraswati, as he conveyed his thoughts to the people in the temple trust. In an interview, Nripendra Misra, Chairman of the Ram Temple Construction Committee, stated that the funds for the temple construction are entirely sourced from devotees, with no government involvement. As of the end of September this year, approximately ₹3,500 crore has been collected through donations. On January 15, 2021, the then President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, initiated the contributions toward the construction of the Ram Mandir by donating ₹5,01,000. The first phase of the project is set to be completed by the end of next month, allowing pilgrims to witness Lord Ram in his child form before January 26, 2024. Preparations are underway for

the grand inauguration of the much-awaited temple on the banks of the Saryu river in 2024, which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2024. The puja for the occasion will commence on January 14, coinciding with the celebration of Makar Sankranti, and the installation of Lord Ram's idol in the Garbhagriha of the Ram Mandir is scheduled for January 22. "Jai Siya Ram! Today is a day full of emotions. Recently, officials from the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust visited my residence and invited me to Ayodhya for the consecration of the Shri Ram Temple. I feel truly blessed. It is my good fortune that in my lifetime, I will witness this historic occasion," posted PM Modi on social media last month.

CAPSULE

JAWAN, TRIBAL SHOT BY TERRORISTS IN MANIPUR
Imphal: A security force personnel and his driver were shot dead by suspected members of the Imphal Valley-based terror groups in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on Monday, officials said here. The duo were travelling in a vehicle when suspected terror group members belonging to the state's majority community carried out an ambush between Haraothel and Kobsha villages, the officials said. One of the deceased was working with the India Reserve Battalion (IRB), the officials said. The incident took place in an area adjacent to the Singda dam, which has become a hotspot for insurgent groups to target tribal community members during the ongoing ethnic violence in the northeastern state.

Punjab Cabinet calls 2 day Winter Session of Assembly on Nov 28-29

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After receiving a rap from the Supreme Court on delaying proroguing the Budget Session of Punjab Vidhan Sabha, convened in March this year, amidst the standoff between Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the State Cabinet on Monday decided to convene the Winter Session for two days on November 28 and 29. This two-day session is slated to be one of the shortest winter sessions of the Vidhan Sabha.

The state Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Mann, on Monday, approved the summoning of the fifth session of 16th Punjab Vidhan Sabha on November 28-29. The decision came days after Governor Purohit had prorogued the Budget Session, on November 16, on the recommendation of the State Government.

The lingering issue dates back to March when the Budget session was adjourned sine die. Despite the adjournment, the Government failed to formally request prorogation from the Governor, as per constitutional norms.

Subsequently, the



Government convened two special sessions — in June and October — without obtaining the Governor's approval, leading to Purohit deeming them patently illegal.

On the basis of the same contention, the Governor refused to give his consent to the Bills passed during the two special sessions.

Punjab Government moved the Supreme Court against the Governor's stand and delaying his nod to the bills passed by the House. Taking serious note of the matter, the Apex Court admonished the Governor, emphasizing that he "should not play with fire"

by delaying the approval of Bills passed by the Assembly.

At the same time, the Apex Court also criticized the State Government's persistent adjournment of the session sine die, instead of adhering to the constitutionally-mandated prorogation.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the delay in seeking prorogation while underscoring the seriousness of the situation, the Apex Court raised concerns about the Government's repeated adjournment of the Budget session sine die, urging adherence to established parliamentary norms. Sharing the details of the Cabinet meeting, the

state Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema informed that the Winter Session will start with obituary references on November 28, and the business for the two-day assembly session will be decided by the Business advisory committee shortly.

Cheema said that several Bills, lying pending for a long time, would be tabled in the session. The Cabinet also approved the creation and filling up of nine posts of technical cadre through direct recruitment in Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Sports University, Patiala. Among these posts, there is one post of assistant manager, two posts of programmer, two posts of technical assistant, and clerk-cum-data entry operator.

Notably, the University was set up with an aim to upscale the standard of sports in the State through focus on education, training and courses in the field of sports. That these posts will help in streamlining the work of the university and will facilitate the students in getting their routine work done, he said.

Moreover, the Cabinet approved the Punjab Canal and Drainage Bill, 2023, for the

control and management of canals in the state. Its main objective is to ensure maintenance, repair and timely cleaning of canals, drains and natural water sources to provide water for irrigation purposes to farmers and landowners without any hindrance. In addition, the Bill will ensure a fair and transparent mechanism for redressal of grievances of water users, and other regulatory restrictions against unnecessary wastage of water.

The Punjab Cabinet has decided to dissolve the Punjab State Social Welfare Board (PSSWB), and its employees and five ICDS posted at the PSSWB headquarters will be deputed to the Social Security, Women and Child Development Department, said the Minister. The Cabinet also gave approval to send a case of commutation of life imprisonment of one prisoner detained in a state jail, while four other such cases were rejected. After the approval of the Cabinet under Article 163 of the Constitution, the special immunity or anticipatory release case will be sent to the Governor of Punjab for consideration under Article 161 of the Constitution.

Hry Chief Minister inaugurates Shri Vishwakarma Skill University campus

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday inaugurated the newly constructed campus of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University campus in Dudhaura village of Palwal district. The government allocated Rs 357 crore to the university.

The Chief Minister emphasised the significant impact of India's youth globally through skill development, with Haryana playing a pivotal and unmatched role in this field. He said that the country's first skill university has been established in Palwal district, bringing pride to the region. He said the university's success in securing better placements and the local youth achieving self-reliance through skill development, paving the way for self-employment opportunities.

Khattar said a grant of Rs 1,000 crore has been approved by the government for the university's development, aimed at aligning the state's youth with skill development. Of this allocation, Rs 357 crore has already been utilised for infrastructure, and an additional Rs 150 crore would soon be disbursed for the university management's request, he said.

The Chief Minister said that Haryana Government is



playing an important role in the direction of skill development and the government has established the Haryana Skill Development Corporation and the Foreign Cooperation Department, dedicated to linking the youth with employment opportunities. Through these entities, avenues for employment have been created for the youth through the signing of MoUs with various industrial units.

He stated that Shri Vishwakarma Skill University stands as a beacon for other states to emulate and expressed happiness over the inauguration 10 blocks from the Takshashila Administrative Building in the University. These include 6 academic blocks with 69 classrooms, predominantly equipped with smart technology, a computer

lab, an administrative building, and a Center of Excellence. The inauguration also encompassed specialized labs such as CNC Lab, Solar Lab, Advanced Electric Lab, Electronics Lab, and Welding Lab. He said that 500-bed hostels for the students are also ready in the campus.

Khattar added that more than three dozen courses are running in this skill university which are important in the skill development of the youth. Students can take admission as per their wish and get training as per their skills. Commending the university team's working style, he lauded the establishment of the country's first innovative skill school within the university campus. This skill school focuses on subjects such as AI, IT, Automation, Data Science, Health Care, and Yoga.

School in Palwal to be named after Jhalkari Bai: Hry CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday announced that the Government Girls Senior Secondary School located at Agra Chowk in Palwal would be named after Jhalkari Bai. Besides this, a Bhawan of the Koli community will be constructed in which a statue of Jhalkari Bai will also be installed.

An amount of Rs 3 crore will be spent on this, Khattar added.

Addressing the gathering at the state-level function to

mark the birth anniversary of the Veerangana Jhalkari Bai, Khattar said, "In the 1857 struggle for independence, we all have heard the name of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, but the name of the Veerangana Jhalkari Bai has not received as much recognition in history. Jhalkari Bai disguised herself as Rani Lakshmi Bai, and she was the commander of the women's army who sacrificed her life to save the life of Rani of Jhansi and for the independence of the country".

Khattar said that Maithili Sharan Gupta beautifully described the courage and val-

our of Jhalkari Bai in his poem. "In today's era, our daughters are shining bright in every field", he said.

Khattar said that in India, there have been many unsung heroes, whose names have been forgotten throughout history. But under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government has taken the initiative to make the public aware about the supreme sacrifices and valour of these unsung heroes alive. In this series, the Prime Minister had also issued a postage stamp in the name of Veerangana Jhalkari Bai.

Farmer bodies seek withdrawal of cases against farmers for burning stubble

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Farmer bodies in Punjab on Monday held protests at the offices of deputy commissioners and sub-divisional magistrates at many places, seeking the withdrawal of cases registered against farmers for burning stubble. The protesting farmers, who also demanded a long-lasting solution for paddy straw, brought stubble-laden trolleys to several offices of DCs and SDMs.

The call for the four-hour protest was given by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (non-political) and 18 other farmer bodies. The agitating farmers demanded withdrawal of legal actions, including registration of FIRs and rollback of the fine imposed on farmers for burning crop residue.

They also demanded an increase in sugarcane rates and a fair compensation for land acquisition under the Bharatmala projects.

In Moga, a group of farmers, who were bringing stubble in tractor-trolleys, said they were stopped from entering the DC office complex for staging a 'dharna'.

One of the farmers even lied in front of a police vehicle, demanding they be allowed to go to the DC complex.

The protesters, while condemning the legal action against farmers for burning straw, said 75-80 percent of pollution was caused by industry and vehicles.

But the action was being taken against farmers, they said.

In Sangrur, the protesting farmers brought

stubble in their tractor-trolleys and parked their vehicles near the DC office.

Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher said demonstrations were held at 34 places in the state. He demanded that penalties imposed on farmers be withdrawn and sought a long-lasting solution for managing stubble.

In Ludhiana, protesting farmers were not allowed to enter the city. Two groups of farmers were stopped at Verka Milk Plant Chowk and near the Sangowal village, respectively.

Later, a delegation of farmers reached the mini secretariat and presented a memorandum to the additional deputy commissioner.

In Hoshiarpur, farmers under the banner of Azad Kisan Committee Doaba staged a 'dharna' against punitive actions towards farmers involved in burning stubble.

Led by Harpal Singh Sangha, the president of Azad Kisan Committee Doaba, the farmers gathered in front of the district administrative complex. They submitted a memorandum to the Hoshiarpur DC outlining their concerns and demands.

Paddy straw burning in Punjab and Haryana is considered one of the reasons behind the spike in air pollution levels in the national capital in October and November.

Police on Sunday had said that over 930 FIRs had been registered against farmers for burning stubble since November 8, besides, a fine of Rs 1.67 crore had been imposed in 7,405 cases and red entries were made in the revenue records of 340 farmers. (With agency inputs)

Punjab's Aam Aadmi Clinics gets international recognition

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) – led Punjab Government's flagship programme — the Aam Aadmi Clinics — received international recognition as it bagged the first award in Global Health Supply Chain Summit held in Nairobi from November 14-16.

"Punjab's Health and Family Welfare Department has received first prize for its submission titled "Strengthening last mile delivery of drugs: A case study from Punjab".

Total 85 countries had participated in the conference and submissions from four countries, including that from the Government of Punjab, India, were selected for final presentation," said the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday. He said that the State Government showcased the success story of the Aam Aadmi clinics and how the Government of Punjab has exponentially increased the number of primary healthcare and delivered quality health services.

The Chief Minister said that Punjab's winning entry was presented with the rigour of sci-

ence, super positioning of the problem statement, great clarity of solution and impact, innovative solutions, compelling case of how political will galvanized primary healthcare transformation, fostering collaboration with the private sector and clear articulation of reforms pathway.

"The participating countries have evinced keen interest in visiting Punjab to see the Aam Aadmi Clinics and understand how 84 essential drugs and 40 plus diagnostics are being made available closer to households and without any cost to the patients," said Mann, adding that the countries were also surprised to note that all the Aam Aadmi clinics are IT-enabled with end-to-end digitization of registration, doctor consultation, investigations, and prescriptions.

Congratulating the people of the state, the Chief Minister said that this recognition has filled them with more humility and dedication to serve the people of the state.

"More such concerted efforts will be made in the coming times to ensure that the people of the State benefit from such pro-people initiatives in a big way," he said.

Himachal CM directs officials to settle pending cases of mutation by Jan 20

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday directed officials to settle the pending revenue cases of mutation, partition and demarcation of land by January 20.

The High Power Committee under the chairmanship of Sukhu reviewed the pending revenue cases in the state and asked all the deputy commissioners to dispose of the pending cases on mission mode.

Every revenue officer, right from naib tehsildar to divisional commissioner should hear and resolve the pending revenue cases on a daily basis and ensure their timely disposal and this will also be reflected in the ACR of all the concerned officers and officials, Sukhu said.

As many as 31,105 cases out of a total of 41,907 pend-



ing cases were disposed of in the 'mutation adalats' held on October 30 and 31 across the state, he said, adding that similar courts, which have now been named as Revenue Lok Adalats, would be organised on December 1 and 2 to settle such pending cases.

Directions were issued to all the deputy commissioners to hold meetings with their district's revenue officers and also to send the complete report of

the cases disposed of on a monthly basis to the state government, containing the name, address and phone number of the applicant and other details in tabulated form.

He also directed to rationalise the staff as per the requirement and said that all the appointments or dates, for hearing of revenue-related matters, should not exceed more than three days.

To overcome the shortage of staff in the districts, the state government will also allow deputy commissioners to hire retired kanungo/patwari, Sukhu said. There were 28,472 pending cases of partition in the State which included 1407 pending partition cases in Bilaspur, 680 in Chamba, 2413 in Hamirpur, 12,014, Kangra, 156 in Kinnaur, 1057 in Kullu, 48 in Lahaul-Spiti, 3208 in Mandi, 1288 in Shimla, 1072 in Sirmaur, 1156 in Solan and 3973 in Una till October 31, 2023.

Craft Fair in Chandigarh from December 1

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Chandigarh Craft Fair is set to captivate audiences with a blend of contemporary performances and cultural heritage at Kalagram, Manimajra, from December 1 to December 10. Organized in collaboration with the North Zone Cultural Centre and the Department of Cultural Affairs, Chandigarh, this year's theme, 'Mera Mati Mera Desh,' will be showcased through a gateway inspired by Nagaland, aligning with the foundation day of the North Eastern state on December 1.

Hari Kallikkat, Secretary Culture, Chandigarh Administration expressed confidence that this edition of the fair promises not only abundant entertainment but also a rich cultural experience for attendees. Featuring approxi-

mately 1000 folk artists from various states, including renowned performers, and boasting around 200 craft stalls offering exquisite handicrafts, the fair is designed to be a vibrant celebration of India's diverse cultural tapestry. Highlight performances include Lakhwinder Wadali, Salman Ali of Indian Idol fame, Maithili Thakur, Gulrez Akhtar, Maya Upadhyay from Uttarakhand, and Naati king Kuldeep Sharma. The inaugural day will feature a special choreographer performance blending folk and classical artistry, choreographed by the acclaimed Santosh Nair and his team. Throughout the day, fair artists will enchant audiences, with evenings reserved for local talents selected by the Chandigarh Sangeet Natak Akademi. Sorabh Arora, Director Culture, Chandigarh.

BRIEFS

Vice President to inaugurate Int'l Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra on Dec 17

Chandigarh: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will inaugurate the International Gita Mahotsav 2023 in Kurukshetra on December 17. A spokesperson from the Kurukshetra Development Board said that preparations for the International Gita Festival 2023 are underway and this year, the festival is scheduled to take place at Brahma Sarovar from December 7 to December 24. This year, the Gita Jayanti would be observed on December 23. On this day, celebrations will include lighting lamps, cultural programmes, and a global recitation of the Gita involving 18,000 students. The state of Assam will participate as a partner state in the festival for the first time.

Hry CM directs officers to offer compassionate appointments to 'sisters' of all martyrs

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday approved the immediate compassionate appointment of Manju Rani, sister of the Shaheed Satyawar, Sepoy, 10 Para Regt., against a Group C post in the Department of Elementary Education by giving relaxation in the policy as well as her posting in the Home District, Charkhi Dadri. He has directed that Manju Rani will be offered the post of TGT teacher as soon as she qualifies the HTET examination. Shaheed Satyawar, son of Santosh, had sacrificed his life for the nation during 'Operation Rakshak'. The Chief Minister has also directed the Chief Secretary office to offer compassionate appointments to 'sisters' of all martyrs whose cases may be pending by giving similar relaxation in the policy.

PU to host Northern Zone Vice-Chancellors' Conference on Implementation of NEP 2020

Chandigarh: Panjab University (PU) Vice Chancellor Prof Renu Cheema Vig on Monday said that the Northern Zone Vice-Chancellors' conference on the implementation of New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 will be held on November 22-23 at the University campus on November 22-23. Around 100 Vice Chancellors of Northern Zone consisting of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi, and Union Territory of Chandigarh would participate in this conference. "The objectives of the Conference are to identify various approaches and methodologies to implement NEP 2020 and also effectively articulate the roadmap and implementation strategies. Discussion on the challenges being faced by educational institutions and sharing best practices by the institutions will also be held, she added.

Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Yatra to Kick Off on November 22 in Hry


Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal on Monday said that Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Yatra will start on November 22 with the aim of raising awareness among the populace about various welfare schemes implemented by both the Central and State Governments. The overarching goal of the Yatra is to ensure 100% coverage of key government initiatives, including PM Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission, Jan Dhan Yojana, and Swachh Bharat Mission, he added. The Chief Secretary reviewed the arrangements for the Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Yatra with Deputy Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners, and other senior officers of the state. He informed that the Yatra will reach different parts of the state between November 22 and 28.

Officers asked to promptly update demographic data on the HRMS Portal

Chandigarh: The Haryana Government has directed Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments to promptly update demographic data on the HRMS Portal for Group-D employees under the Common Cadre. A letter issued to them by Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal on Monday stated that they must complete the corrections, which include details such as age, gender, and date of birth, within one week. They are urged to adhere to these instructions diligently to avoid any ambiguity while implementing the online transfer of Group-D employees of Common cadre.

Hry Govt to refund development fees of Rs 5.19 crore to 1588 property owners

Chandigarh: The Haryana Government has decided to refund development fees to property owners who erroneously paid it on properties where it was not applicable. As a result, a total of 1588 property owners will receive a refund, said the spokesperson of Urban Local Bodies Department. He further said that the department has identified around 1588 properties where property owners had paid development charges in HSPV, HSIIDC, licensed colonies, CLU-acquired properties, Lal-Dora residential properties and agricultural properties. The department has provided details of such properties to the concerned municipalities. Currently, 51 property holders have submitted their applications on the NDC portal, and these applications will be promptly processed, he added. The spokesperson mentioned that affected property owners have been notified via SMS about the reimbursement process, encouraging them to apply for a refund through the NDC portal. An amount totaling Rs 5 crore 19 lakh is earmarked for return to these property holders, the spokesperson added.



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

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

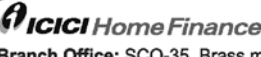
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sultan Singh/ Dhanpat/ Surjeet/ LBHIS00006026898/ LBHIS00005992857.	Khwat No. 363/331, Khata No. 478, Khasra No. 216/16/2(5-11), 24/1(3-17) 24/2 (3-10), 25 (7-7), 217/20/2(6-5), 21/1(2-5), 22/1(0-13) 22/1/2(8-0) Mouja- Agroha, Hisar, Haryana/ November 18, 2023	June 17, 2023 Rs. 10,63,487/-	Hisar
2.	Randhir Singh/ Pooja/ Jalbir/ LBHIS00005897628/ LBHIS00006050759.	Khwat No. 2026 Khatoni No. 2405 Khasra No. 552/9(8-0) Situated at Kisan Colony Banwala Distt- Hisar, Haryana/ November 18, 2023	May 22, 2023 Rs. 14,80,175/-	Hisar
3.	Sandeep Kumar/ Wazir Singh/ LBHIS00006182245/ LBHIS00006050759.	Khwat No. 1066 Min, 1044 Min, Khasra No. 1062/1(-0) Situated at Village Matloda Tehsil- Banwala, Distt- Hisar/ November 18, 2023	April 19, 2023 Rs. 12,93,991/-	Hisar
4.	Darshan Singh/ Sunil/ LBHIS00005335107/ PPHNS00045464318	Khwat No. 301, Khatoni No. 407, As Per Jamabandi 2013-2014, Situated at Village Khumbha Tehsil Hansi and District Hisar/ November 18, 2023	May 30, 2023 Rs. 14,99,722/-	Hisar
5.	Anshul/ Bansil Lal Sarla Devi/ LBHIS00005732761	Plot No. 146 & 147 Minjula Wakya Rakba Guru Dharshan Colony Tehsil Ukiana Hisar Haryana/ November 18, 2023	May 15, 2023 Rs. 10,57,624/-	Hisar

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: November 21, 2023
Place: Hisar

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited



Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kuria Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400059, India
Branch Office: SCO-35, Brass market, Rewari, Haryana- 123401
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Rao Phool Chand Shiksha And Khel Samiti (Borrower) Dharampal (Co-Borrower) Virender Singh (Co-Borrower) Jyoti Kumari (Co-Borrower) Vikram Singh (Co-Borrower) Loan A/c No. LHRWIO0001294899 & LHSNP0001298425 & LHSNP00001358366	Khwat No. 151, Khatoni No. 165 And Khawat No 65 Khatoni No 70, Killa No. 14/15/1, 43/8, 48/17/1, 14/2, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25, 49/11/1, 20, 21, 51/4/2, 5, 6, 7, 8 And Khawat No. 104, Khatoni No. 110 & KILLA No. 38/18/2, 23/2, 24, 25, 43/3/2, 4/1, 50/1/1, 2, 3/1,51/2, 3, 4/1, Village Salooni Tehsil Narnaul District Mahendergarh- 123001	Rs. 3,22,18, 478/- November 16, 2023	Rs. 5,75,91, 000/- November 16, 2023	December 11, 2023 11:00 AM- 03:00 PM	December 29, 2023 02:00 PM- 03:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BestAuctionDeal.com>) of our auction agency **Globe Tech**. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **December 28, 2023 before 05:00 P.M.** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, SCO-35, Brass market, Rewari, Haryana- 123401** on or before **December 28, 2023 before 04:00 P.M.** The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, SCO-35, Brass market, Rewari, Haryana- 123401** on or before **December 28, 2023 before 05:00 P.M.** Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of **"ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.- Auction"** payable at **Saloni**.

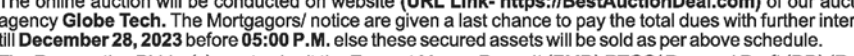
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 022-69974300** or our Sales & Marketing Partner **NexXen Solutions Private Limited**.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com/>

Date : November 21, 2023
Place : Mahendergarh

Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited



NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed percentage rate tender on form No. 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No.I, H.P. PWD., at Padhar on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh for the below noted works from eligible Contractors/firms registered in H.P.P.W.D. in appropriate class as per revised enlistment rules, so as to reach in this office on or before **30.11.2023 up to 12:00 Noon** and the same shall be opened on the same day at **12:30 P.M.** in the presence of the Contractors or their authorized representatives who may be present. The tender form can be held from this office against cash payment (Non Refundable) on **29.11.2023 upto 01:00 P.M.**

The tender shall accompany with Earnest Money which should be in the shape of NSC/Treasury Deposit/Saving Bank account in the Post Office/bank in U.P. duly pledged in the favour of undersigned.

Conditional tenders, telegraphic and tender without earnest money will not be entertained. The Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No.I, H.P. PWD., at Padhar reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders. The tender shall remain valid for 75 days from the date of opening of the tenders. If any of the date mentioned above happens to be local/ Gazetted Holiday the same shall be process on next date.

Sr. No.	Name of work.	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form (in Rs.)	Time
1	Construction of 30.00 mtr. (Revised to 40.00 mtr.) span bridge over Narla Khad on Kufri Kheel Lohara Damela road at R.D. 7/900 Under N ABARD RIDF-XXVIII. (SH: - Drilling Bore hole on Right Bank Abutment)	1,50,000.00	3,000/-	350/-	One month
2	Restoration of rain damages on Uhl Valley road Km 0/0 to 10/0. (SH: - Construction of U -Shape drain at R.D. 0/450 to 0/650).	4,97,512.00	10,000/-	350/-	One month
3	Restoration of rain damages on Uhl Valley road Km 0/0 to 10/0. (SH: - Construction of Retaining wall at R.D. 0/330 to 0/337).	3,91,986.61	7,800/-	350/-	One month
4	Construction of Warehouse for the storage of EVM & VVPATs building at Bhuli D istrict Mandi (H.P.) (SH: - Providing and fixing collapsible gate in storage hall)	1,56,161.37	3,100/-	350/-	One month
5	Restoration of rain damages on Link road NH -154 to Zila Parishad Bhawan Mandi 0/0 to 0/400. (SH: - Construction of Retaining wall at R.D. 0/180 to 0/192).	2,70,916.16	5,400/-	350/-	One month
6	Restoration of rain damages on Link road Upper Bhuli to Lower Bhuli Km 0/0 to 0/900. (SH: - Construction of Retaining wall at R.D. 0/0 to 0/008)	4,29,676.60	8,600/-	350/-	One month
7	Restoration of rain damages on Pakhari Galu Baragaon road Km 0/0 to 5/800. (SH: - Construction of Breast wall at R.D. 0/475 to 0/482)	4,11,352.54	8,200/-	350/-	One month
8	SDF/2023/250, R/O (Repair of) Restoration of rain damages on Kamand Neri road Km 0/0 to 6/0. (SH: - Construction of Retaining wall at R.D. 4/705 to 4/719.10)	3,27,811.97	6,600/-	350/-	One month
9	Construction of Combind Office building at Padhar District Mandi (H.P.) (SH: - Providing and fixing Cupboards, panelling and almirahs works etcetera in meetin g hall)	4,94,552.63	9,900/-	350/-	One month
10	Construction of Govt. Senior Secondary School Dhar Tehsil Padhar District Mandi (H.P.) (SH: - Providing and fixing steel work and prepaired steel in Chhijias and Porch)	1,93,550.45	3,900/-	350/-	One month

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- The Contractor/Firm shall have his GST. No. & copy of the same be attached with the application.
- The intending Contractor/Firm Should have attached copy of registration/renewal.
- The earnest money & cost of tender form for the above works should be submitted with the application for the purchase of the tender forms. The application received without earnest money & cost of tender form shall summarily be rejected.
- The tender form will be issued to those contractors who have not more than two works at the time of issue of tender forms. In this regard, contractor has to submit an affidavit that he is not having more two works.
- The intending Contractors are requested to see the site of the work before submitting the tender.
- The offer of the tender shall remain valid upto 75 days after the opening of tender.
- The tender shall be awarded to the lowest bidder if his tendered amount is within limit of (+) 5% of the amount put to tender, otherwise the tender will be cancelled and recalled.
- The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject/accept any or all the tenders without assessing any reason.

Executive Engineer,
Mandi Division No. I,
HPPWD., at Padhar Distt. Mandi (H.P.)
on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed that Sushil Kumar S/o Sh. Amrit Lal R/o Basant Vihar, Nawana (Jind) has lost Regd deeds no. 1829 dated 07/07/2009 & 1122 dated 31/05/2010. Police report has been made vide DDR no. 132300282300868. If anyone has any objection on above should contact Sushil Kumar within 7 days. No claim of any kind will be accepted after 7 days.

LOST & FOUND

I Pooja Bhat Kapoor W/o Sh. Bharat H Kapoor, House No. 1010, First floor, Sector 15-B, Chandigarh inform that I have lost Original sale deed of Plot No. 178, 179 and 180, Umar Khan Datta, Village Hayatnagar, Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Andhra Pradesh somewhere in Sector 17 Chandigarh. A DDR L.A.R. No. 2023/0336134 & Serial Number 139392 is also uploaded the same in Chandigarh Police. If anybody found kindly contact me on above address.

Public Notice

It is informed to General Public that Smt. Saroj W/o Sh. Naresh Kumar has lost his Sale deed no. 4516 dated 24.11.2010 & Correction deed no. 2012 dated 09.07.2018 for Property i.e. House Part of bearing Khasra no. 1873/2 (70-15), Khawat & Khata no. 615/1005, Measuring 200 sq. yards, situated at Bhagat Singh Colony, Bhiwani Tehsil Bhiwani, Distt Bhiwani. If any person has objection then file replies alongwith proof of ownership within 15 days before the undersigned. After lapsation of stipulated period no claim will be accepted regarding the said property.

Rajesh Jain, Advocate
#19, 20, 1st Floor, R.D. City Centre, Red Cross Market, Railway Road, Hisar (9416044098)

LOST NOTICE

I, Kavita Saini, wife of Mr. Rohit Kumar, R/o #1, village Ganauli, post office Ambli, Tehsil Naraingarh, Distt. Ambala, declare that I have lost my 5 marla plot registry certificate no. ICF2021A1, GRN No. 70986331, dated 06-01-2021 somewhere near Sadhaura. Please inform if find anyone.

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - III
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3)
Ground Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh- 160017
DEMAND NOTICE (PUBLICATION)
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.
RC/1842/2019 19-10-2023
ICICI BANK LIMITED
Versus
VEENA TRANS SOLUTIONS INDIA PVT. LTD.
To,
(CD 1) M/S VEENA TRANS SOLUTIONS INDIA PVT. LTD. AMLOH ROAD, NEAR SAI MANDIR, VILLAGE KAHANPURA, TEHSIL AMLOH, DISTRICT FATEHGARH SAHIB, PUNJAB- 147301. THROUGH ITS DIRECTORS.
(CD 2) SMT. VEENA RANI, W/O SH. RAMESH KUMAR, R/O H. NO. A-38, GALI NO.14, SANJAY NAGAR, ADARSH NAGAR, N.S. MANDI, MODEL TOWN, NORTH WEST, DELHI.
(CD 3) SMT. SONIA SAIZRA, W/O SH. MAHESH KUMAR, R/O H.NO.A-38, GALI NO.14, SANJAY NAGAR, ADARSH NAGAR, DELHI.
(CD 4) SH. SIKANDER SINGH, S/O SH. BHAG SINGH, R/O H.NO.18, SALANA DULLA SINGH WALA, SALANA, DISTT. FATEHGARH SAHIB-147301 (PUNJAB). GUARANTOR IN LOAN ACCOUNT NO. LVFTS00033680198.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3)** in **OA/315/2019** an amount of **Rs 2,46,32,884.90p (Rupees Two Crore Forty Six Lakhs Thirty Two Thousands Eight Hundred Eighty Four and Paise Ninety Only)** along with pendente lite and future interest @ 8.75% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. **11/02/2019** till realization and costs of **Rs 150000 (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousands Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of Tribunal that It is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore this notice is given by this publication directing you to put in appearance before this Tribunal on **30.11.2023 at 10:30 A.M.**

4. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date : **19/10/2023.**

Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3)

COPY TO :-
ICICI BANK LIMITED

You are directed that the payment made, if any, by the Certificate Debtor(s) be credited to the consolidated account of all debts due in this case from the Certificate Debtor(s) and the Recovery Officer kept posted with the payment position regularly.

The consolidated account so maintained will be subject to the verification of the Recovery Officer. You are further directed to submit an up to date statement of the total claim in respect of the above matter and full details of property particulars where from the recovery of the debt is to be made.

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, हिसार को कर राखा के सम्पत्तिकर के रिहाई में नई प्रोटीटी आईडी नं. 1DWHBH4 (गली नं. 8, सूर्य नगर, हिसार) जो कि ये प्रोटीटी सुशीला देवी पत्नी श्री रामचिशन सैनी c/o अर्बिला सैनी पुत्री स्व. श्री रामचिशन सैनी (पत्नी श्री सुन्दर सिंह सैनी) निवासी य. नं. 342/5, मोती बाजार, मोहल्ला झुलनगर, हिसार के नाम दर्ज है। नगर निगम हिसार के गृहकार रिहाई में श्री रामचिशन सैनी पुत्र श्री दुर्गा प्रसाद सैनी का स्वर्गवास दिनांक 11.5.2021 को व श्रीमती सुशीला देवी पत्नी श्री रामचिशन सैनी का स्वर्गवास दिनांक 4.5.2021 को व श्रीमती शांति पत्नी श्री दुर्गा प्रसाद सैनी का स्वर्गवास काफ़ी असा फलने हे चुका है। अब उनको मृत्यु उत्पत्ति अब नगर निगम के रिहाई में इस आई.डी. नं. में प्राचीन निस्का का नाम अर्बिला सैनी (पुत्री), प्रेमलता सैनी (पुत्री), जगदीश सैनी (पुत्र), पंकज सैनी (पुत्री), सरोज सैनी (पुत्री), प्रतीप सैनी (पुत्री) के द्वारा वास्तन के आधार पर अपने नाम तब्दील करवाना चाहते है। यदि किसी भी जनसाधारण को इनके नाम तब्दील करने में कोई भी आपत्ति है तो 30 दिन के अंदर अंदर नगर निगम कार्यालय में अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज करवाएँ, अन्यथा प्रोटीटी टेक्स में इनके नाम तब्दील कर दी जायेगी। निस्के लिए नगर निगम, हिसार कोई उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा।

क्षेत्रीय कारायन अधिकारी, नगर निगम, हिसार

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE SH. SANJAY GARG, HCS AS STT. ESTATE OFFICER, U.T. CHANDIGARH.

Subject: Transfer of Ownership in respect of RESIDENTIAL Site No. 463, SECTOR 35-A, Chandigarh (RP 15425) to the extent of 50% share on the basis of Registered WILL Late Sh. IQBAL JITSINGH

It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office, Sh./Smt.SH. IQBAL JIT SINGH is the owner/lessee of RESIDENTIAL Site No. 463, SECTOR 35-A Chandigarh to the extent of 50% Share.

It has been informed by BRAHM JYOT KAU, that Sh./Smt. SH. IQBAL JIT SINGH expired on 16/07/2023 and he/she/they have also intimated the following legal heirs of the deceased owner/lessee:-

Name of the Deceders Relation with deceased

1. BRAHM JYOT KAUR DAUGHTER

2. RAJINDER KAUR WIFE

3. JUJHAR SINGH SON

Now, BHARAM JYOT KAUR has/ave applied for the Transfer of Ownership in respect of RESIDENTIAL Site No. 463, SECTOR 35-A, Chandigarh, to the extent of 50% Share held by Late Sh. IQBAL JIT SINGH in his/her favour, on the basis of registered will dated 18/10/2004. If anybody has any information about any other legal heir (s) of the deceased other than mentioned above, the same may be intimated to the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh, immediately.

If anybody has any objection upon the intimation of the said share in the said property in favour of the above named applicants, he/she/they may furnish the same in writing (supported with affidavit duly attested by Magistrate/Notary in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly in the name of above said beneficiary/ies and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained after any later stage.

• Subject to condition regarding obtaining Occupation Certificate of complete building as constructor site.

Sanyam Garg, HCS
Assistant Estate Officer, Exercising the powers of Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh

नगर निगम रोहतक

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहतक को कर राखा के सम्पत्तिकर के रिहाई में नई प्रोटीटी आईडी नं. 1H03WBE8 और पुरानी प्रोटीटी आई. डी.नं. 224C2403U293 प्राप्त करना कर्तव्य है, रोहतक। सूचना पुत्र श्री. विवेक नगर निगम कार्यालय में अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज करवाएँ, अन्यथा प्रोटीटी टेक्स में इनके नाम तब्दील कर दी जायेगी। निस्के लिए नगर निगम, रोहतक कोई उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा।

क्रमांक: MCR/ZTO/2023/2591 क्षेत्रीय कारायन अधिकारी, नगर निगम, रोहतक
दिनांक: 20.11.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Smt. Poonam Devi W/o Sh. Manoj Kumar in respect of property i.e. Part of Bearing Khasra no. 2226, Khatoni no. 302, Khatoni no. 524, Khasra no. 1783/19/2(14/5), measuring 80-2M-5 Sarsa, Gair Munkin situated in the revenue estate of PNB to waive money, Tohana Road, Ratis, Tehsil Ratis, Distt Fatehabad. The owner of the above said property is Usha Rani W/o Chander Lal and it is informed that one original document i.e. Release deed no. 1703 d. 13.7.2012 with regard to the above said property has missed and same is not traced out. If any person/Entity/Individual/ Institution/ Bank/Co-op. Department may have obtained or have issued any loan/Stay Order/ Court Case against this property as well as this document or have any objection of any kind with regard to giving loan against above said property. They/they can file an objection regarding the use of above said documents as well as property within 14 days from the date of the present Publication to below mentioned person on the address or contact numbers given and after 14 days no claim shall be admitted and it would be assumed that the property is free from encumbrances/Litigation as far as the above documents are concerned.

Ridhi Associates , Adv. Bhupander Kumar
Cont. No. 8235949981

LOST & FOUND

I, Harsha Lata w/o Ravindra Kumar r/o #1162/5A, Shankar Colony, Pipli, Distt. Kurukshetra inform that the Registry No. of my house located at Kailash Nagar, Sunderpur, Distt. Kurukshetra is 15018/1 dated 31/10/2014 which is missing in Mohan Nagar, Kurukshetra. Whoever finds it please inform at the above address. M: 9812323347.

नगर निगम रोहतक

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहतक को कर राखा के सम्पत्तिकर के रिहाई में नई प्रोटीटी आईडी नं. 1H48EU00 और पुरानी प्रोटीटी आई. डी.नं. 88C383U4C9 प्राप्त करना कर्तव्य है, रोहतक। सूचना पुत्र नरेश कुमार (पुत्र के रिहाई में) के नाम से दर्ज है। अब नगर निगम के रिहाई में इस आई.डी. नं. में प्राचीन निस्का नाम राजकुमारी पत्नी सोनाराम के द्वारा वसीयत / वास्तन के आधार पर अपने नाम तब्दील करवाना चाहते है, यदि किसी भी जनसाधारण को इनके नाम तब्दील करने में कोई भी आपत्ति है तो 30 दिन के अंदर - अंदर नगर निगम कार्यालय में अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज करवाएँ, अन्यथा प्रोटीटी टेक्स में इनके नाम तब्दील कर दी जायेगी। निस्के लिए नगर निगम, रोहतक कोई उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा।

क्रमांक: MCR/ZTO/2023/2456 क्षेत्रीय कारायन अधिकारी, नगर निगम, रोहतक
दिनांक: 30.10.2023

नगर निगम रोहतक

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहतक को कर राखा के सम्पत्तिकर के रिहाई में नई प्रोटीटी आईडी नं. 1H4NRE00 और पुरानी प्रोटीटी आई. डी.नं. 73C7ADU132 प्राप्त करना कर्तव्य है, रोहतक। सूचना पुत्र श्री. विवेक नगर निगम कार्यालय में अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज करवाएँ, अन्यथा प्रोटीटी टेक्स में इनके नाम तब्दील कर दी जायेगी। निस्के लिए नगर निगम, रोहतक कोई उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा।

क्रमांक: MCR/ZTO/2023/2456 क्षेत्रीय कारायन अधिकारी, नगर निगम, रोहतक
दिनांक: 15.11.2023

THE GBS WORKERS COOPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING SOCIETY

Plot No. 16/24, Sector 48-A, Chandigarh

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information on general public and all concerned that Sushila Kumari W/o Harish Chander Juneja have applied for the transfer of ownership/Share of Flat No. 788, 2nd Floor Category B of The GBS Workers Coop. H/B Society, Plot No. 16/24, Sector 48A, Chandigarh in her name on the basis of Agreement to sell entered with the owner of the above said Flat Sandeep Kohli S/o SP Kahli. Objections in writing (if any) with supporting documents for this transfer of ownership/share are invited from the general public within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice and the same can be submitted to the President of the Society in writing otherwise the ownership of the flat shall be transferred accordingly and no further claim what so ever shall be entertained later on.

President

LOST & FOUND

I Sunil Monga R/o House No. 3725 Sector 46-C, Chandigarh have lost my Original Transfer Letter No. 23749-50 Dated on 30.11.2009 and issued by CHB, Chandigarh. Contact 7307344444

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rajesh W/o Rishpal R/o Village Chuhanpur Khurd, Tehsil Chhachhrauli, Yamuna Nagar declare that sale deed no. 4515 dated 20.07.2015 has been lost at Chuhanpur Khurd on dated 20.03.2018. It has not been mortgage with any Person / Bank / Financial Institution. DDR No. 132400101800379 has been lodged. Anybody have any objection or any person found this sale deed please contact : 7988894688, 9355290664.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sh. Sushil Sharma S/o Sh. Nathu Ram Sharma in respect of property i.e. Plot/House, Property id. 7GHF2BQ, measuring 218 Sq. Yards, Situated at Mohalla Trivadyan Mahendergarh, Tehsil and District Mahendergarh. I have lost sale deed no. 3055 dated 19.10.2007 anywhere in Mahendergarh. A DOR also registered at Mahendergarh. I also declare that I have not taken any type of Loan, CC Limit or OD Limit on the said property. If anybody found and any concern with in this property, please contact Advocate Bhupander Kumar, Ph no. 8235949981 & 1591, SECTOR 16-17, HISAR WITHIN 7 DAY OF THIS PUBLICATION

नगर निगम रोहतक

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहतक को कर राखा के सम्पत्तिकर के रिहाई में नई प्रोटीटी आईडी नं. 1HDAG2M5 पुरानी प्रोटीटी आई-डी नं. 100C468U92 आई नं./ पत्र 343/18 Bhawna Beauty Parlour है। पुरानी प्रोटीटी आईडी रिहाई व सके के अनुसार नए प्रोटीटी आईडी नं. Baljeet Singh नाम दर्ज है। मल्लिकार्जुन के दस्तावेजों के आधार पर राज, अनुमति कर्तव्य सिद्ध व old record में कर्तव्य सिद्ध पुत्र रोहतक चन्द मल्लिक है। नगर निगम के रिहाई में इस प्रोटीटी आई-डी नं. नं. 1HADAQZM9 प्राचीन निस्का नाम श्री / श्रीमती पत्नी डॉ. पुत्र राखेश कुमार, रोहतक कुमार, मोर, पुत्री सोनिया, मौनिका, उषा बाबासाहेब रिटिड अनुमति के द्वारा अब वास्तन के आधार पर अपने नाम तब्दील करवाना चाहते है, यदि किसी भी जनसाधारण को इनके नाम तब्दील करने में कोई भी आपत्ति है तो 30 दिन के अंदर-अंदर नगर निगम कार्यालय में अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज करवाएँ, अन्यथा प्रोटीटी टेक्स में इनके नाम तब्दील कर दी जायेगी। निस्के लिए नगर निगम रोहतक कोई उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा।

क्रमांक MCR/ZTO/2023/2564 दिनांक 16/11/2023 क्षेत्रीय कारायन अधिकारी, नगर निगम, रोहतक

HOUSING BOARD HARYANA ROHTAK

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of General Public that Smt. Sumitra W/o Sh. Dharam Pal R/o VPO Rewari Khara Teh. Banahadurg, Jhajjar. Has applied for transfer of Hs/House No.106 GF, Housing Board Colony, Sec. 36, Rohtak in favour of Sh. Ravinder Hooda S/o Sh. Kartar Singh R/o H.No. 292 Ward No. 14, Near Purnam Nagar Chaman Pura Rohtak. Any person regarding transfer of this flat has any objection he/she should file objection with documentary proof in writing, in person, to this office within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received from any person within stipulated period, the Permission for transfer of flat will be granted in favour of Sh. Ravinder Hooda S/o Sh. Kartar Singh R/o H.No. 292 Ward No. 14, Near Purnam Nagar Chaman Pura Rohtak. On the basis of documents submitted as per policy of the Board. No claim/objecton after that shall be entertained in this regard.

Estate Manager, Housing Board Haryana, Rohtak

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Parveen Kumar, Branch Manager, Punjab National Bank, Narot/Mehra Branch, I do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under- That I am posted as stated above. That Sh/Davinder Paul S/o Sh/Parkash Chand and Smt/Sunila Rani w/o Sh/Davinder Paul, R/o Village Dehrwal P/o Sarna/Pathankot, Tensli and Distt. Pathankot 145025 is going to avail a loan facility from our bank for purchase of residential property/plot from Sh Monish Katal S/o Sh/Parveen Kumar Katal, by way of equitable mortgage the Property / Plot measuring 13 Marla bearing Khasra No. 6R/14/2(-18-1)/57-12(-16(-13-19)-16/2(3-4)/17(-11-6) of 08 Marlas&Khasra No. 6R/14/12(-14-18) of 05 Marlas& E Total land 13 Marlas at Sarna Near Bhatia Hospital & Dayanand School Tehsil and Distt. Pathankot vide sale deed dated 03/09/2015 bearing document no. 2909 duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Pathankot.

That the owner of the property Sh Monish Katal S/o Sh/Parveen Kumar Katal has disclosed that in chain of this property previous sale deed dated 18/10/2012 bearing document no 667, Waska no. 4806 in favour of Sh Sandeep Varma S/o Sh Ashok Varma was lost by him on 10/06/2022 and a missing Report bearing unique No. 2908/139 dated 11/11/2023 at SaanjKender P S SadarPathankot. That in respect of above said Property, now Punjab National Bank, B/o Narot/Mehra, Distt. Pathankot is going to allow a Loan facility for the purchase of said property to Sh/Davinder Paul S/o Sh/Parkash Chand and Smt/Sunila Rani w/o Sh/Davinder Paul against equitable mortgage of the said property. If any person has any objection or interest with regard to equitable mortgage of above said property or are having any claim / knowledge of the above said document alleged to have been lost, he / she may approach and file objections within 7 days before the Branch Manager Punjab National Bank, B/o Narot/Mehra, Distt. Pathankot. Thereafter, the Bank will allow Loan facility against equitable mortgage of said Property considering the above said previous sale deed mentioned above to be lost

Chhath Puja comes to an end with arghya at sunrise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Thousands of devotees thronged various ghats of rivers Ganga and Varuna apart from leading ponds including Surya Sarovar in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Monday morning to offer 'arghya' to Surya Bhagwan (Sun God) at the time of sunrise and with this, the four-day Surya Shasthi festival, popularly known as Dala Chhath Puja, came to an end. Elaborate security arrangements were made at various ghats and ponds. Several traffic restrictions were imposed especially in the central city area of Dashashwamedh, southern part of Assi and Bhaissasur in the northern part near Rajghat.

Right from wee hours the devotees started thronging various ghats of rivers Ganga and Varuna to secure space at the stairs.

The ghats like Dashaswamedh, Rajendra Prasad, Ahliyabai, Man Mandir, Assi, Sheetha, Scindia, Panchganga, Nagwa, Bhainsasur, Rajghat, Narad, Kedar, Hanuman, Ravidas and Tulsi Ghat witnessed gathering of huge number of devotees. Rush was also seen at different ghats of Ramnagar including Shastri and Balua ghats.



Rush of devotees near Rajghat to offer arghya at sunrise in Varanasi on Monday.

Besides, a rush of devotees was seen at Shastri and other ghats of river Varuna apart from various kundas and ponds.

Even after 5 am the vrati women started taking baths and standing in the water, carrying 'dauras' (baskets made of bamboo sticks) of 'prasada' in their hands.

They stood for almost an hour to wait for sunrise. As soon as the sunrise was seen, the women started offering arghya. The family members

also did the same and sought the blessings of the vratis. At that time, the ghats were echoed with traditional songs of Chhathi Maiya. Thousands of vratis in view of heavy rush at ghats and ponds preferred to celebrate the festivals at their homes.

Earlier, at Surya Sarovar in BLW General Manager (GM) Basudev Panda offered the first arghya to the setting sun after performing ritual puja. On the occasion, Principal Chief

Electrical Engineer SK Srivastava, Vice Chairperson of Women Welfare Organisation Gauri Srivastava, Principal Chief Engineer Vinod Bampal, Principal Chief Security Commissioner Ranveer Singh Chauhan, Chief Quality Assurance Manager Praveen Kumar, Senior Deputy General Manager Vijay, Chief Mechanical Engineer, SQM Ramjanm Choubey, Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar were also present.

Gopashtami celebrated at Dharmasangh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The premises of Dharmasangh (Mani Mandir), the holy place of Dharmasamrat Swami Karpatri Ji Maharaj, remained abuzz with various events throughout the day on the occasion of Gopashtami on Monday. Dharmasangh general secretary Pandit Jagjit Pandey started the ritual worship at Swami Karpatri Adarsh Gaushala established on the campus in the morning hours. The rituals were performed by 11 Vedic Brahmins and 111 Batukas under the leadership of Acharya Ramanand Pandey in the Shodashopachara method while chanting the mantras of Shukla Yajurveda. First of all, Gauri-Ganesh and Aditya Surya worship were done. After offering prayers to Lord Vishnu, cow worship was done.

On the occasion of Gopashtami, hundreds of desi (indigenous cattle breeds) like Gangatri, Gir, Sahiwal etc living in the cow shed, were given Panchagavya and Panchamrit bath in the morn-



Gopashtami being celebrated in Varanasi on Monday.

ing, after which the cows were adorned with silk clothes, crown ornaments etc.

After the puja, all the cows were fed green fodder like cucumber, gourd, beans, greens, carrots, green peas etc along with gur, fruits and sweets. At the end, aarti was performed.

Speaking on the occasion, Pt Jagjit Pandey said that we serve cow like our mother. "Cow is the provider of all happiness, the incarnation of cow has happened for the welfare of

all. Serving cows not only brings happiness and prosperity but also opens the doors to salvation," he said, adding that the cow is the nurturer of the entire world and in this form she has incarnated on earth. "Cow is the simplest, easiest and most beneficial to people," he said.

The distinguished guests including Cantt MLA Saurabh Srivastava, Dr Ramnarayan Dwivedi, Dr Udayan Mishra, Abhishek Mishra, Pramod Mishra etc participated in the

Gau Pujan (cow worship). Rajmangal Pandey welcomed the guests. Dharmasangh also felicitated the Gausevaks who are continuously active in the field of cow service.

Earlier, a pledge was taken to serve cows by donating lamps in 21 Akashadeeps (sky lamps) in the temple premises. On the occasion, the temple courtyard was decorated with colourful electric lighting arrangements. Entrance gate was decorated with flowers attractively.

Aadharshila-2023 held at SMS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

School of Management Sciences (SMS) completed 29 glorious years of its establishment in the city. The inaugural function of Foundation Day 'Aadharshila-2023' was organised by the institute on Monday in which UP Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Dr Daya Shankar Mishra 'Dayalu' was the chief guest. Describing SMS Varanasi as a leading institute in the field of providing employment-oriented education to the students of North India including Purvanchal, Dr Mishra said that since its inception, this institute has given maximum emphasis on skill development and employment-oriented education among the students. Dr Mishra said that today in this era of technology, the nature of education has changed. The needs of the students have also changed, hence it is important that the educational institutions keep their curriculum updated. While presiding over the programme, former Vice-Chancellor of APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University Prof Durg Singh Chauhan said that this educational institution is a leader in the field of management and technology.

Welcoming the dignitaries, Director of the institute, Prof PN Jha said that this moment of completion of 29 glorious years of the institute is historic. While thanking all the partners associated with the institute, he said that due to their good wishes and blessings, SMS has created a distinct identity for itself on the national and inter-



UP Minister Dayashankar Mishra inaugurating foundation day function at SMS in Varanasi on Monday.

national stage. Prof Jha remembered the founder director of the institute. Paying homage to Prof Mukund Lal, he said that Prof Mukund's vision and strong self-confidence have given a distinct identity to this institute. Started in 1995, this institute has never looked back in the last 29 years and has left an indelible mark in the world of management education by continuously scaling new heights. He said that this institute is dedicated to the overall development of students along with education. In the year 2017, NAAC awarded SMS, Varanasi with 'A' grade in its evaluation, which is also a matter of pride for the city of Varanasi. The award of autonomous status to the institute by the University Grants Commission is also a seal of its

excellence. After the inaugural session, various cultural programmes and competitions were also organised in which competitive events - solo singing, solo dance, business quiz, antyakshari, rangoli, ad and poster making were organised. In the various inter-college competitions, participants from more than a dozen educational institutions of Purvanchal (eastern UP) including Varanasi displayed their talent. The main attraction of the programme was the fashion show in which the undergraduate and post-graduate students of SMS showcased their magic in the ramp walk fashion show.

Demonstrating the significance of India's message of 'Unity in Diversity', various costumes of India were displayed by the students in the fashion show. Like every year, this year also SMS Management Committee decided to honour its employees who have provided continuous services to the institute for 25, 20, 15 and 10 years in which, Prof Kamalshel Mishra, Pradeep Kumar, General Manager, IT, for providing continuous service for 25 years, Shambhu Sharan Srivastava, Associate Professor, Sushil Kumar Singh, Senior Programmer, for 20 years and Atish Khadse, Associate Professor for 15 years. The inaugural session was conducted by Prof Pallavi Pathak, coordinator of Aadharshila. Executive Secretary of the institute Dr MP Singh, Sanjay Gupta and the teachers and employees were also present.

played by the students in the fashion show. Like every year, this year also SMS Management Committee decided to honour its employees who have provided continuous services to the institute for 25, 20, 15 and 10 years in which, Prof Kamalshel Mishra, Pradeep Kumar, General Manager, IT, for providing continuous service for 25 years, Shambhu Sharan Srivastava, Associate Professor, Sushil Kumar Singh, Senior Programmer, for 20 years and Atish Khadse, Associate Professor for 15 years. The inaugural session was conducted by Prof Pallavi Pathak, coordinator of Aadharshila. Executive Secretary of the institute Dr MP Singh, Sanjay Gupta and the teachers and employees were also present.

Bride elopes with lover after 'nikah'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A 'barat' returned home without the bride in Mauima here on Sunday. After the nikah the bride eloped with her boyfriend and sent a message that that there was no meaning of that 'nikah' for her.

The angry 'baratis' returned but were helpless as the police intervened and stressed on a compromise.

The 'barat' departed from a small village of Mauima to Sultanpur with the groom. They were given a grand reception there and the 'nikah' was performed. Things were normal for about half an hour, but suddenly the members of the bride's family started running from one place to another with pale faces. The bride was missing.

After about an hour a relative received the message of the bride that the 'nikah' was meaningless for her and she was happy with her boyfriend.

Somehow information reached the groom's side and a heated argument took place between the two sides. In the

meantime someone informed the police and they reached the spot.

The police asked both the parties to sit together with a cool mind and reach a compromise. The 'baratis' returned home without the bride.

POLICE PREPARING TO GET B WARRANT: The Puramufi police are preparing to get a B warrant from the court to take Saddam, brother-in-law of Ashraf, brother of mafia don Atiq Ahmad, in connection with the 'illegal' sale of waqf land worth Rs 50 crore. Saddam is at present in Bareilly jail. The main accused in this 'illegal' land deal, mutavalli Asiyam and wife Jinnat are absconding. Saddam was arrested by the STF from Delhi and was lodged in Bareilly jail. Wife of Ashraf Zainab Fatima and her elder brother Zaid Master are also named in the FIR lodged a day earlier for grabbing Waqf land and selling the same. Both Zainab and Zaid Master have been absconding for quite some time. Four other accused in this case are also untraceable. Four teams have been con-

stituted to trace the culprits, and they will soon be sent to jail, said DCP City Deepak Bhukar.

Zainab and Shaista Parveen, wife of Atique went underground immediately after the murder of Umesh Pal. Saddam had been providing all possible facilities to Ashraf in Bareilly jail.

PRACTICAL EXAM: The practical examination of Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad Uttar Pradesh (UP Board of Secondary Education) Intermediate 2024 will be held in two phases. The first phase practical examinations will be held from January 25 to February 1, while the second phase practical examinations will be conducted between February 2 and February 9. Agra, Saharanpur, Bareilly, Lucknow, Jhansi, Chitrakut, Faizabad, Azamgarh, Devipatan and Basti divisions will be covered under phase one, while the second phase will include Aligarh, Meerut, Moradabad, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Mirzapur Varanasi and Gorakhpur divisions. The regional offices of the Board

will be apprised of the detailed schedule and the list of examiners well in advance. CCTV camera will monitor the practical examinations also. The principals will have to preserve the recording of the CCTV footage and will have to make the same available to the regional office on demand.

Practical examinations will be held, as usual, on internal basis and the project work will be evaluated. The High School students have been advised to get themselves enrolled for the practical examinations with the principal. It will be based on internal evaluation on moral sports and physical education.

For Intermediate students their sports and physical education marks will be uploaded on the Board website by the principals concerned. Principals have been advised to conduct pre-board examinations of High School and Intermediate between January 13 to 22 along with the annual examination of classes IX and XI. This has been informed by Board secretary Divya Kant Shukla.

Senior Judge Gupta appointed as officiating CJ of Aild HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Senior Judge Manoj Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the officiating Chief Justice (CJ) of the Allahabad High Court. Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court Pritinker Diwakar, who is retiring on November 21, will hand over charge to Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta. Justice Gupta will be the officiating CJ till the appointment of a regular chief justice.

EMPHASIS ON SAFE RAIL TRAVEL: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) North Central Railway (NCR) is doing everything possible to ensure safe rail travel for women passengers. Train are being escorted by women RPF team 'Meri Saheli' for ensuring

security of women travelling alone, helping women in case of any problem and rescuing children. As part of its continuous efforts in this direction to spread the message of women's security among the public, under the guidance of IG-cum- Principal Chief Security Commissioner (PCSC) AN Sinha a team of 24 RPF officers and staff took part in the 38th Indraa Marathon organised by the Sports department of Uttar Pradesh in Prayagraj on Sunday. This RPF Team comprised one assistant commander, three inspectors, five sub-inspectors and 15 staff, including three women RPF staff.

During the run the RPF carried the messages "Let us come together to ensure safe rail travel for women," "Our

aim making rail travel safer for women" etc. The participation in the marathon is aimed at promoting the cause of safe and secured travel on trains for women.

It is for creating public awareness about various initiatives of RPF aimed at promoting women's safety and security. In particular attention was focused on the 'Meri Saheli' initiative. In 2023 RPF NCR displayed remarkable performance by rescuing 17 passengers from perilous situations near moving trains. Under operation Nanhe Farishte RPF NCR rescued 738 unaccompanied children at risk in stations and trains, preventing them from becoming victims of child abuse. RPF/North Central Railway marathon team also

carried the message of the railway helpline number 139. Passengers can call on the helpline number while on travel if they encounter any security-related issues. On receiving such complaints on the helpline, RPF will immediately attend the train at the nearest station and address the issue.

Under the guidance of AN Sinha, IG-cum-PCSC all three divisions of NCR are doing everything possible to ensure security of the travelling public in general and women's security in particular. Women RPF personnel deployed across NCR are attending to women passengers, elderly women, and children addressing their security-related issues to ensure safe rail travel for them.

Water chestnut exported to Dubai

VARANASI (PNS): Water chestnut (singhaara) from the ponds of Kashi will now make its presence in the Arab markets. Its first consignment from this holy city was exported to Dubai (United Arab Emirates) on Monday.

With the efforts of the government, the farmers and entrepreneurs are turning to become exporters. Due to the hard work of farmers and efforts of Agricultural and

Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and the strategy of the government, farmers are getting fair prices for their produce. Vegetables, flowers and fruits are being exported continuously from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur and due to which farmers are getting proper results of their hard work. Deputy General Manager of APEDA's regional office in

Varanasi, Dr CB Singh said that a consignment of water chestnuts was sent to the UAE. The DGM said that farmers are being continuously trained through APEDA and Horticulture department experts so that farmers can present their produce as per export standards.

"Our produce is getting a fair price in the international market. Varanasi is gradually becoming a major centre of

agricultural export and food processing for the entire Purvanchal (eastern UP)," he said, adding that to make the region as a major agri export hub, a pack house (perishable cold storage) with a capacity of five tonnes has been built in the industrial area near LBSI Airport.

The PM has also given the gift of perishable cold storage in Rajatalab of his parliamentary constituency.

Mishap claims man's life

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

An aged man died in a road mishap in an area under Jigna police station on Sunday. Reports said that Bainath Bind (70), a resident of Bhairpur village under Manda police station in Prayagraj, was going on foot when he was hit by an Innova near Rannopatti village under Jigna police station. On information the police reached there and found the victim dead on the spot. The police took the body into possession and impounded the vehicle.

PONTOON BRIDGE TO BE ERECTED: Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel while addressing a public gathering at the village secretariat of Sindhora village under Pahadi block on Sunday informed that the pontoon bridge at Sindhora Ghat on Ganga river will be erected soon for the convenience of people. She appealed to the people to ensure maximum presence of old and Divyang persons at block headquarters on the date fixed to examine the requirement of calipers for the needy. Giving details about examination camps in each block of the district she said calipers were not required only for the Divyangs but for the aged persons too who were facing physical abnormality due to age factor. She said in the camp the doctors will examine the requirement and on their recommendation calipers will be prepared and will be handed over to the needy. But prior registration and examination was necessary to avail such



Devotees performing rituals of Chhath Puja on the bank of Ganga in Mirzapur on Monday. PTI

facility, she added.

During her visit the minister became aware of the problems related to Ganga by doing spot inspection by boat. During her tour she was accompanied by BJP leader Harishankar Singh, chairman cooperative bank Dr Jagdish Singh Patel, block pramukh Pahadi Indra Bahadur Pandey and local people's representatives of Seekhar and Pahadi blocks.

CONDOLED: District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjana condoled the demise of veteran journalist Ravindra Nath Jaiswal alias Lalloo Bhaiya. His last rites were performed at Ganga Ghat on Sunday. Speaking at a condolence meeting held at the Information and Public Relations Office, District Information Officer OP Upadhyay described him as a person who lived for values. Prominent among those who also spoke on the occasion were

Manoj Shukla, Santosh Srivastava and Vishwajeet Dubey. The meeting concluded with two minute silence in respect of the departed soul.

COUPLES REUNITE: Under Project Milan programme five couples who were living separately due to petty issues got reunited on Sunday in the family counselling centre (FCC) located at Police Lines. After several sittings the centre was successful in getting five couples to agree to live together. The entire process was carried out by woman inspector and incharge of FCC Seema Singh who was assisted by sub-inspector Shashi Tiwari, constable Pinki Jaiswal, counsellors Dr Krishna Singh and S Devi.

ARRESTED: The Vindhychal police on Sunday arrested an accused of raping a minor girl. A woman had

lodged a named FIR on September 13 alleging that the accused had enticed her minor daughter away. After registering the case the police started the investigation. SHO Arvind Mishra nabbed the accused. The police sent the accused of Pakari village under Jigna police station to jail.

CAUGHT: The Padari police on Sunday caught two accused of motorcycle theft, including a juvenile offender, and recovered three stolen motorcycles.

Arun Kumar Dubey of Keshavpatti on November 17 and Manoj Bind of Sikari on November 18 had lodged a complaint about the theft of their motorcycles. The police nabbed Karan Bind of Garayi Nala along with a stolen motorcycle and on his identification a juvenile offender was caught and two more stolen motorcycles were recovered.

Lasting ordeal

Despite the ongoing multi-pronged rescue approach, the trapped workers are still fighting for life

For nine long days and nights, the 41 construction workers trapped inside the Uttarkashi tunnel have been bereft of sunlight, a cool breeze and normal life where they can move around at will. Best efforts using the best machinery by several Government agencies notwithstanding, these men await evacuation from what used to be their workplace after the Silkyara-Barkot underconstruction tunnel suddenly collapsed on November 12. The ill-fated workers – mostly natives of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand – face the ordeal of their way out being blocked by rubble and debris. This incident has not only tested the resilience of these workers but also triggered a massive, coordinated effort to rescue them. The location of the tunnel – part of the Narendra Modi Government's 'Char Dham' all-weather accessibility project – in a remote mountainous area presents a logistical nightmare for the rescue teams. The authorities swiftly mobilised a multi-



agency response to evacuate the trapped workers. Specialised teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), local police and experts from abroad have been deployed at the accident site. The rescue operation is going on for nine days now but to no avail. The initial rescue operation was suspended on November 17 when a loud cracking sound was heard from inside the tunnel during the positioning of a new pipe for the workers to walk out bypassing the rubble. The pipes were also being used to supply the workers with food, water and medicines.

Ironically, the use of heavier machinery to move the earth only aggravated the problem and led to more debris falling and clogging the planned way out. Now, in the first place, this incident should not have occurred. Though it is not the time to delve into the larger question of whether such mega projects in a fragile ecosystem should be allowed or whether the safety and security procedures were adequate, it appears certain that the lives of poor workers do not amount for much in our system. This crisis comes barely three months after 20 workers and engineers lost their lives on the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway, a similar mega project, in Thane district. However, the most uplifting and positive development in this incident has been that the innate helpful nature of people came to the fore. As news of the trapped workers spread, the local community rallied together, offering support to the rescuers and workers' families. Local volunteers played a crucial role in assisting on-ground operations and providing food, shelter and moral support to those involved in rescue efforts. But the happy ending is not here yet; there are prayers in bated breath for the hapless trapped workers who are paying the price for someone else's callousness and greed.

PICTALK



Spectators attend the inauguration of the Champs Elysee Avenue for the upcoming Christmas, in Paris

Cricket World Cup: A spectacle of excellence

The World Cup was a rare display of talent and grit showcasing the best cricket has to offer. It would linger for long in the memory of cricket lovers

With almost 1,30,000 fans in attendance and numerous high-profile personalities from all over the world, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Sunday, November 19, however, belonged to an indefatigable Australia. In the heart of Ahmedabad, at the magnificent Narendra Modi Stadium, history was etched, as, Australia emerged victorious in the Cricket World Cup. It was India's first defeat of the tournament after they had, in a brilliant display of finesse, won all 10 of their previous matches. Without any exaggeration, it can be said that it was one of the finest tournaments India had ever played under the captaincy of Rohit Sharma. Once again, it was Australia's cricketing legacy that continued to shine brightly in the 2023 World Cup. The leadership of the Australian captain, Pat Cummins, and the team spirit led the team through challenging encounters. Cummins' strategic acumen and strategic captaincy style proved instrumental in setting the tone for Australia's



success. The team's batting lineup, featuring seasoned players like David Warner and Steven Smith, consistently delivered impactful performances, ensuring substantial totals in crucial matches. While the outcome may not have favoured the Indian cricket team, their journey in the 2023 World Cup was marked by moments of brilliance and a never-say-die attitude. Captained by Rohit Sharma and the dynamism of the charismatic Virat Kohli, the Indian team displayed determination and captivating fans around the world. India's batting lineup boasted formidable talents, with Rohit Sharma and K L Rahul providing solid support in most matches. Sharma's elegant stroke play and Rahul's aggressive approach set the stage for the middle order to capitalise on favourable situations. Even Virat Kohli, the linchpin of the Indian batting

order, played several crucial innings, showcasing his class and composure under pressure. Further, several key moments and individual performances defined the narrative of the 2023 World Cup. In a crucial group-stage encounter, India faced Australia in a high-scoring thriller. David Warner's breathtaking century and Mitchell Starc's were other moments of the match. After restricting the South Africans to 212, Australia eked its way to 215–7 to win by three wickets with 16 balls to spare in a tense atmosphere inside Eden Gardens. It was the lowest margin of victory (by wickets) at the World Cup knockout stage. Further, India showcased a batting masterclass led by Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul in their undefeated run into the knockouts, delivering a stunning hammer blow to the Netherlands. The hosts enforced a 160-run defeat, leaving the Dutch team to conclude their World Cup journey on a disappointing note. The foundation for India's commanding total of 410 for 4 was laid by the opening pair of Rohit Sharma

and Shubman Gill, who put together a solid 100-run partnership. One cannot also forget Afghanistan's remarkable journey in the World Cup that unfolded as an enthralling cricketing saga. The team's outstanding performances astounded the global cricketing community, clinching victories against formidable opponents such as Pakistan, England, and Sri Lanka. These successes carved out a historic chapter in Afghanistan's cricketing narrative, highlighting their resilience and skill on the grand stage. Afghanistan concluded their World Cup campaign with an impressive record of four victories in nine matches, marking a historic achievement for a team that had previously secured only one win in World Cup history. The eyes are now set on the 2027 World Cup scheduled to take place in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. Till then, the gentleman's game continues to keep us engaged. *(The writer is a programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, views are personal)*



RAJDEEP PATHAK

Is artificial intelligence taking over the control?

Artificial intelligence has found scope for its intervention in almost all walks of life. Are we losing control and handing over our destiny to computers?

AI technology has been widely used in the current Assembly poll campaign. It includes creating songs featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi in languages such as Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu. These songs have gone viral on the internet. Additionally, AI-powered voice cloning tools have been utilised to send personalised messages to voters and party workers. Modi's digitally rendered songs in Telugu have gained over 2 million views. In comparison, a Tamil-language song featuring his voice has gone viral with over 2.7 million views. Additionally, a Punjabi song that features Modi's voice has gained over 17 million views. Further, Falu, an Indian-American singer, has received a Grammy nomination for her song "Abundance in Millets", featuring PM Modi. Congress and the BJP have used AI-powered voice cloning tools. Ashok Gehlot, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, is notable for this. Some Television channels have introduced AI TV anchors in Odiya, Kannada and Hindi. Artificial Intelligence has transformed healthcare in India significantly. Advanced diagnosis, treatment, and patient care tools have improved medical services. A recent World Economic Forum report says that India's expenditure on AI is expected to reach \$11.78 billion by 2025. It will contribute to an addition of \$1 trillion to India's economy by 2035. Prime Minister Modi is keen on fostering further AI development in India.

All these bring us to the question of whether AI is gradually gripping the world. At the first AI Safety Summit hosted by the UK at the historic Bletchley Park on November 1, political and industry leaders discussed the risks around artificial intelligence. The focus was also on how to develop the technology safely. About 28 countries participated, including the United Nations and the European Union. US Vice President Kamala Harris represented the US. India, represented by Minister of State Rajeev Chandrasekhar, said, "We want AI and tech to represent goodness, safety and trust": Rapid progress in AI is arousing fear as well as excitement. The participants ranged from doom-sayers to hopeful participants who hoped AI would save humanity. They addressed the global nature of the issue. They stressed the need for international cooperation and healthy competition. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has said he's worried about humanity losing control to computers. The role of artificial intelligence (AI) in cyberattacks was also discussed. AI can impersonate at a scale and speed never known. These could make the global financial system go haywire and threaten democracy. "We want AI and tech to represent goodness, safety and trust," said Minister of State Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who represented India. The conference was undoubtedly a good start. India is planning to host another meeting in December. As the host nation, the UK was the first to announce the formation of an official AI Safety Institute to examine the safety of emerging forms of AI. At the end of the conference, the declaration said: "The Bletchley Declaration stresses safe, responsible AI development, urges international cooperation to mitigate risks, and promotes global benefits." Google CEO Sunder Pichai



ness, safety and trust": Rapid progress in AI is arousing fear as well as excitement. The participants ranged from doom-sayers to hopeful participants who hoped AI would save humanity. They addressed the global nature of the issue. They stressed the need for international cooperation and healthy competition. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has said he's worried about humanity losing control to computers. The role of artificial intelligence (AI) in cyberattacks was also discussed. AI can impersonate at a scale and speed never known. These could make the global financial system go haywire and threaten democracy. "We want AI and tech to represent goodness, safety and trust," said Minister of State Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who represented India. The conference was undoubtedly a good start. India is planning to host another meeting in December. As the host nation, the UK was the first to announce the formation of an official AI Safety Institute to examine the safety of emerging forms of AI. At the end of the conference, the declaration said: "The Bletchley Declaration stresses safe, responsible AI development, urges international cooperation to mitigate risks, and promotes global benefits." Google CEO Sunder Pichai



SUPPORTERS CLAIM AI IMPROVES EFFICIENCY BY AUTOMATING TASKS, ANALYSING DATA, MAKING DECISIONS, OPERATING 24/7, REDUCING ERRORS, AND ENSURING SAFETY

admitted, "Knowledge workers, writers, accountants, architects and, ironically, software engineers would face a threat to their jobs. The concern of terrorist groups using generative AI tools and the fear that AI could become uncontrollable by humans are additional worries. AI concerns will include real-time cybersecurity, supply chain efficiency, software development acceleration, and customer service automation in the coming year. AI has disadvantages, such as potential job displacement and ethical concerns, the possibility of losing human qualities like creativity and empathy, high cost and complexity, reliability issues, and dependency on technology. It cannot engage in negative thoughts or understand cause and effect. It also cannot comprehend time. On the other hand, supporters claim AI improves efficiency by automating tasks, analysing data, making decisions, operating 24/7, reducing errors, and ensuring safety. AI can be used for voter registration and verification. Politicians would benefit from using AI for predictive analysis of voter behaviours. AI can analyse social media to gauge sentiment and identify critical issues for political campaigns to tailor their messages.

Moreover, AI is crucial in maintaining election security by detecting and preventing fraud, hacking attempts, and other irregularities. It can use historical data and current events to predict election outcomes. AI-powered chatbots can inform voters about polling locations, candidate profiles, and additional crucial election-related information. This first summit successfully brought these people together on the table and discussed AI, its benefits and dangers. This summit successfully brought these world leaders together on a platform. Ultimately, we have to find the answer to questions like should we automate away all the jobs, including the fulfilling ones? Should we develop non-human minds that might eventually outnumber, outsmart and replace us? Is AI a dangerous or a welcome technology? Still, moving to AI will take time to happen. That is the crux of the AI issue. It is still in the nascent stage. World leaders and industry leaders must apply their minds to a regulatory system. Rogue nations must be controlled. All countries must accept the rules and regulations. *(The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RESCUE OPERATION

Sir—On Sunday, district administration officials laid out the red carpet for the Union Minister of Road, Surface Transport, and Highways at Silkyara. However, the plight of the 41 workers trapped in the tunnel since November 12 shows no signs of ending soon. The union minister informed the media that all options were being explored, with horizontal drilling remaining the most viable. If the machines continued to operate smoothly, he hoped the rescue team would 'reach' the stranded workers in the next two or two-and-a-half days. While the minister spoke of using 'robots' to reach the workers, confusion arose about what 'reaching the workers' meant. Did it imply the pipe being drilled reaching them, or did it refer to rescuers or robots reaching the workers? Ambiguity also surrounded the roads built by the Border Roads Organisation, intended for transporting heavy machinery to the accident site. Although these roads are slated to be ready by Monday, details regarding the awaited machinery and its arrival remain unclear. Experts have noted the government's initial approval of a bi-lane tunnel at Silkyara with 'escape lanes,' yet the current plan appears to have abandoned these provisions. It seems the stranded workers are unlikely to see daylight until at least Tuesday. The nation fervently prays for their swift rescue.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

WE NEED A STRICT E-PHARMA POLICY

Sir—The e-pharmacy business has flourished with the rise of smartphones. With a simple mobile click, necessary medicines are promptly delivered to homes. E-pharmacy caters to medicines not readily available on the market and serves the elderly and pregnant mothers. Questions are emerging in the pharmacy industry, prompting the Delhi High Court to direct the central government to formulate the pending e-pharmacy policy over the past five years. The deadline for this policy's formulation is set within the next

World Television Day



In 1996, a German delegation boldly declared at the United Nations (UN) that "television is a rich man's medium," opposing the observance of 'World Television Day' on November 21. They remained unimpressed by television's ability to captivate imaginations as effectively as radio. From JJ Thomson's

cathode ray experiments in 1887 to its primitive form in the 1920s, to its present state, television's evolution—from black and white beauty to colored marvel—is both surprising and inspiring. Surpassing radio and newspapers, the pivotal communication mediums, wasn't an easy feat. The vivid narratives of winners and losers, the distressed and saviors, politicians and governments, celebrities, and the ordinary, make television a unique medium. It encapsulates education, news, and entertainment—a compact three-in-one package. Cultural exchange, family bonding, issue resolution, and creative documentaries are its evident benefits. A cynical scholar once remarked, "I find television to be very educational. Every time somebody turns it on, I go to the other room and read a book," a sentiment that may not resonate with avid television lovers. The question they must ask themselves is, "How much is too much?"

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

eight weeks. While the sale is banned, it's clarified that it is not permitted under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the Pharmacy Act of 1948. However, questions persist about the online sale of medicines. The Union Health Ministry needs to devise a stringent policy to prevent the sale of counterfeit medicines.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

HEARTBREAKING FINAL

Sir—The final for Team India cricket fans was undeniably heart-wrenching. Had at least one of the so-called 'super batsmen,' known for creating miracles and records, recognised it as a 'mega final' and demonstrated the patience not to lose their wickets carelessly, the scorecard would undoubtedly have shown a different story. Cricket is a mind game, and the more patience players exhibit, the greater the

team benefits and resilience. This was evident in the resolve of Australian batsmen, who, despite losing three quick wickets, chose to stay and fight with full of fervor. Unfortunately, for the men in blue, the leader and experienced senior players couldn't lead the team effectively, resulting in a heartbreaking loss in the final, shattering the hearts of millions of Team India cricket lovers. Nevertheless, cricket enthusiasts will always cherish beautiful memories and records of their favourite team and players. At the end of the day it is not about winning or losing but being part of a Cricket carnival, which was magnificent to watch and some of the best memories we will cherish for long time were made during the world cup 2023.

M Pradyu | Kannur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

OVERCOMING GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT

Accept the truth that nothing is permanent and live in the present to overcome grief



RAVI VALLURI

He was a nonagenarian who lived a life peppered by vicissitudes. There had been high noons and some cathartic moments too. But he remained a contented person as his children and grandchildren were 'settled' in their respective fields. However, impermanence is a fact of life and he succumbed to multiple organ failure. Ill health prevented him from meeting his older brother, (a centurion himself), who had departed for his heavenly abode sometime earlier. This had rankled him considerably and he never quite recovered.

Vital prana or the subtle life force which provides human existence and energy was drained away by the mandarins of death. It is said that parents are our first teachers. Parents act as cicerone for their children, encouraging them to take baby steps into the world and to eventually make decisions and face various challenges in life.

What does one do when a dear one ceases to exist?

"Time will take care of it. If someone you love crosses over, grief overtakes you. But see it from a broader angle — we all must go one day; someone has taken an earlier flight and we must take a later flight. When you see the impermanence of everything, you will gain the strength to overcome the grief. Again, and again, you must put your attention on the impermanence of everything," says Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

Mindfulness and grief

At the core of Buddhism is the concept of mindfulness, and it is inexplicably connected with impermanence. Impermanence is a Buddhist concept that has brought comfort to several people once they lose close ones. When humans value permanence they focus towards the future rather than dwell on the present. The mind needs to be convinced about impermanence to live in the present moment.



Sages from ancient times – with enormous perspicacity- have developed palliative techniques to overcome cataclysmic situations. These include chanting mantras, listening to religious texts, meditation, pranayama, Vipassana and the rhythmic breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya. Mindfulness can act as a centrifugal force in life; a state in which one becomes aware of the present; thoughts and feelings, various physical experiences, and the world around us. We need to accept the cardinal truth that nothing is permanent, be it a chutzpah moment or a woe-begone situation. Change is constant.

How do mindfulness and acceptance of impermanence act as a sword to combat a sense of bereavement?

There are two common ways many of us cope with grief – either one is completely subsumed by the thought and feels entrapped like a bird in a cage. Or the mind is channelled by the techniques mentioned to become robust and grapple with ill-disposed thoughts. It is aware of an alternative paradigm to move on with life despite adversity.

A question plagues the mind as to whether humans can conquer the devastation of grief in its entirety. The truth is perhaps that that does not occur. But it does help in altering the trajectory, intensity, shape, and form of the aftermath. Mindfulness and acceptance of impermanence assist in arresting the trend of obfuscation of the mind by demons of gloom. This sets in motion the acceptance of the reality of bereavement. It is said that time is a great healer to overcome grief and bereavement. Perhaps a few notches above that are performing seva (service to the society) and surrendering to the vast universe and the Almighty to combat grief.

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

BJP banking heavily on Modi guarantee



KS TOMAR


It is now crystal clear that BJP's high command and RSS have completely relied on Prime Minister, Modi's 'Charisma' to win five state polls



It is quite evident from a personal appeal made by the PM to the voters of Madhya Pradesh and the decision not to project any leader as the chief ministerial face is aimed at focusing on Modi's popularity that the BJP is relying heavily on PM's popularity to win the state elections. Opinions are divided about the impact of victory and losses in these state polls in Nov next month. One school of thought says that if BJP is victorious in these elections then the outcome will have no impact on 2024 polls as voters' preference may not be different when it comes to electing central government. BJP lost assembly polls in the Hindi heartland in 2018 but it swept Lok Sabha polls by winning 61 out of 65 seats which included 24(25) in Rajasthan, 28(29) MP and 9(11) in Chhattisgarh and primarily owing to Modi wave and nationalistic agenda.

Modi's popularity has gone very high at the international level and he commands maximum acceptance in the eyes of electorates in India. Experts say that BJP will be armed with Hindutva which is bound to be strengthened after the inauguration of Ram Temple in January and it will be exploited to the hilt. BJP has got vast resources and RSS will use its' well-oiled machinery to ensure the success of the party candidates in Lok Sabha polls. BJP will try to convince about the spectacular performance of the NDA Government and the strong leadership of Modi which made it possible to abrogate Article 370 and adopt 33 per cent women reservation bill in parliament besides

On the contrary, critics believe that if the BJP loses state polls, then it is bound to



THE BJP HIGH COMMAND SURPRISED ITS MINISTERS LIKE NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR, PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL AND FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE WHO FIGURED IN THE FIRST LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR MP POLLS

(The writer is a political analyst and senior journalist, views are personal)

give back to saffron in parliamentary polls. They say that there are predominant factors that will upset BJP's calculations. First, there will be no Pulwama and surgical strikes to create nationwide feelings of Nationalism. Second, the popularity of Congress and opposition parties were at its lowest ebb hence voters did not have an alternative to BJP. Third, Modi's 'Charisma' may not be sufficient to neutralise the nine-year Anti-incumbency of the NDA Government. Fourth, common people are facing the worst type of skyrocketing prices of essential commodities which has made their survival difficult. Fifth, youths had voted in large numbers in the country for BJP but now the unemployment problem is at its zenith which has angered this dominant section of society. The sixth, the middle class seems to be affected and responses vary from 2019. Seventh, the BJP's downward journey has been stalled by the Congress in Karnataka and AIADMK's decision to sever ties with the BJP has given a jolt in Tamil Nadu. BJP cannot ride to power without having significant seats from southern states. Finally, the opposition parties have come under the umbrella of I.N.D.I.A. This which can be attributed to their compulsion of alleged misuse of investigating agencies against them and their leaders. The chances of declaring a PM candidate seem extremely difficult but even if they

broadly agree to share seats and decide not to field candidates against each other than arithmetic of votes may make a difference in the outcome in all states in the country in 2024.

To checkmate sitting CM, Shivraj Chouhan, the BJP high command surprised its ministers like Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Singh Patel and Faggan Singh Kulaste who figured in the first list of candidates for MP polls. As per party calculations, union ministers may have their influence across the state though they have yet to prove their statewide appeal amongst the people.

Experts say that the ministers or MPs hardly do micro-level management of particular constituencies which should worry them in MP. They may not have the state-level stature when compared with Chouhan who may be sulking as he has not been declared as CM candidate despite being at the helm of affairs. BJP high command and the top brass of RSS have taken a big risk by making Prime Minister, Narendra Modi as face of the party and refrained from naming chief ministerial candidates in poll-bound states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram.

Based on a different analogy, BJP has experimented with a new strategy of fielding 24 MPs and 4 union ministers in three poll-bound states including MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh

which reflects the saffron party's 'desperate move and resolve' to ensure victory in these states to create a better narrative for 2024 parliamentary polls. 2nd, it may be aimed at neutralising the anguish of the voters who may have to rethink when new faces (MPs and ministers) are fielded from such constituencies.

As per the outcome of Karnataka and Himachal assembly elections, Modi's all-out aggressive campaign and Hindutva did not work hence if BJP fails to oust Congress in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and C.S. Rao's 'Bharat Rashtira Sanithi' (BRS) in Telangana besides losing MP then it may have direct bearing on 2024 parliamentary elections in 2024. But if the results go in favour of the BJP then it may have a double impact to ensure the victory of Modi for a third successive time. Experts say that BJP's think tank might have assessed the possible impact of the Modi government's nine-year performance and welfare measures which may give weightage to the party's nominees in the elections in the state polls. BJP's 'Gujrat Model' of replacing older generation leaders yielded positive results in Uttarakhand, Goa and Tripura but it miserably failed to deliver in Karnataka. Now it will be interesting to see whether a new strategy to push union ministers and MPs into the electoral fray will work to the advantage of the party or it will backfire.

Geopolitical implications of energy transition

The transition of energy is happening at a rapid pace which will cause a paradigm shift in geopolitical power structure



ISHOO RATNA SRIVASTAV



SAIRAM

(Sairam is an international development advisor and a Chevening scholar, & Srivastav is an Indian Railway Service Officer and a Commonwealth scholar; views are personal)

to global power equations including (1) capital losses from fossil fuel reserves being stranded, (2) losses to treasury reaped from the fossil fuel rents and most importantly (3) loss of the geopolitical power advantages due to the shift to more diffused zero-carbon energy sources such as the solar, wind and hydropower.

Also, an aspect that can't be ignored is that an energy transition entails a technology transition. The eternal zeal towards maximising power from fossil-fueled internal combustion-based systems would shift to electrification in novel ways. Take the case of the global automotive industry which has an almost 3.5% share of global GDP; its technological shift towards



EVs is bound to have a deep impact across its value chain. Also, as the R&D in the conventional energy systems slows down, the locked-in investments would starve for upgrades, particularly in countries having a dependency on technology transfer. These large-scale industry-wide shifts would put pressure

on the geopolitical equilibrium. Also, emissions-linked tariffs in global trade regimes, like the one proposed by the EU are already concerning its trade partners.

The theatre of energy-critical materials like lithium, nickel, cobalt, copper and rare earth elements is already abuzz with action as nations scramble

to secure the reserves worldwide. Since the essential resources for energy transition are not necessarily a consequence of inherited natural advantage, new fault lines are emerging, pushing the global giants to reposition their competitive advantages and undermine the geo-political strengths of others to maintain their position of power in the era of Green Industrialisation. The war in Ukraine, resulting in uncertainty in gas supplies has served as a wakeup call for Europe to hasten its renewable energy transition. Japan, another developed and technologically advanced nation, has announced its intention to be a part of the power play by announcing its Hydrogen strategy that targets an annual

supply of 12 million tonnes by 2040. India too, is leading the global solar effort by playing a leadership role in the International Solar Alliance and through its recently unveiled Hydrogen strategy, it aspires to become a global electrolyser production hub.

The issues of energy security, energy poverty and climate change are central to the concept of energy transition and provide an opportunity towards the creation of a more equitable and sustainable world. For a smooth transition to a new geo-political world order the following may be the critical elements:

Equitable & Fair Transition – Mitigation of socio-economic dislocation through compensation for stranded carbon assets and creating opportunities for job mobility

Revival of Multilateralism – Global institutions need to collaborate more than ever to break the vested interest nexus and create incentives for rapid action

Technological Leapfrogging – Open-source technological breakthroughs can prevent the creation of newer pockets of power based on energy capabilities and create a new world order

Diffusion of power to emerging nations – Considering the future centres of global economic growth and therefore consumption of energy to be anchored in the emerging nations, their voice needs to find a central space in global power equations.

Fighting breaks out near another Gaza hospital

AP ■ KHAN YOUNIS (GAZA STRIP) / BEIJING

Heavy fighting erupted Monday around a hospital in northern Gaza where thousands of patients and displaced people have been sheltering for weeks, as Israel pressed an offensive it says is aimed at eradicating Hamas and uprooting their militant infrastructure. A shell struck the second floor of the Indonesian Hospital, killing at least 12 people, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza and a medical worker inside the facility. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

The advance came a day after the World Health Organisation evacuated 31 premature babies from Shifa Hospital. At least 28 were transported to Egypt on Monday. More than 250 critically ill or wounded patients remain stranded at the compound, which Israeli forces stormed days ago. The plight of Gaza's hospitals is at the focus of a battle of narratives over the war's brutal toll on Palestinian civilians, thousands of whom have been killed or buried in rubble since the conflict was sparked by Hamas' Oct 7 rampage into southern Israel.

Israel says Hamas uses civilians as human shields and operated a major command hub inside and beneath Shifa, while critics say Israel's siege and relentless aerial bombardment amount to collective punishment of the territory's 2.3 million Palestinians.

Marwan Abdallah, the medical worker at the Indonesian Hospital, said Israeli tanks were operating less than 200 metres (yards) from the hospital, and that Israeli snipers could be seen on the roofs of nearby buildings. As he spoke over the phone, the sound of gunfire could be heard in the background.

Abdallah said the hospital had received dozens of dead and wounded in airstrikes and shelling overnight.

Health Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra, who is now based in southern Gaza, said some 600 patients, 200 health care workers and 2,000 displaced people are sheltering there. In a separate development that could relieve some

Houthi rebels hijack Israeli-linked India-bound ship in Red Sea

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Yemen's Houthi rebels have seized an Israeli-linked cargo ship, bound to India, in a crucial Red Sea shipping route and took its 25 crew members hostage, officials said, raising fears that regional tensions heightened over the Israel-Hamas war were playing out on a new maritime front.

The Iran-backed Houthi rebels said they hijacked the ship Sunday over its connection to Israel and would continue to target ships in international waters that were linked to or owned by Israelis until the end of Israel's campaign against Gaza's Hamas rulers. "All ships belonging to the Israeli enemy or that deal with it will become legitimate targets," the Houthis said. Mohammed Abdul-Salam, the Houthis' chief negotiator and spokesman, later added in an online statement that the Israelis only understand "the language of force". "The detention of the Israeli ship is a practical step that proves the seriousness of the Yemeni armed forces in waging the sea battle, regardless of its costs and costs," he added. "This is the begin-

ing of the pressure on Gaza's collapsing health system, dozens of trucks entered the territory from Egypt on Monday with equipment from Jordan to set up a field hospital. Jordan's state-run media said the hospital in the southern town of Khan Younis would be up and running within 48 hours.

CHINA WELCOMES MINS FOR TALKS

China's top diplomat welcomed four Arab foreign ministers and the Indonesian one to Beijing on Monday, saying his country would work with "our brothers and sisters" in the Arab and Islamic world to try to end the war in Gaza as soon as possible. The ministers from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Indonesia chose to start a tour of world capitals in Beijing, a testament to both China's growing geopolitical

influence and its longstanding support for the Palestinians. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the foreign diplomats that their decision to start in Beijing shows their high level of trust in his nation.

"China is a good friend and brother of Arab and Islamic countries," Wang said in opening remarks at a state guest house before their talks began. "We have always firmly safeguarded the legitimate rights and interests of Arab (and) Islamic countries and have always firmly supported the just cause of the Palestinian people." China has long backed the Palestinians and been quick to denounce Israel over its settlements in the occupied territories. It has not criticised the initial Hamas attack on October 7 — which killed about 1,200 people — while the United States and others have called it an act of terrorism.

However, China does have growing economic ties with Israel.

The Saudi foreign minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, called for an immediate cease-fire and the entry of humanitarian aid and relief to the Gaza Strip. "There are still dangerous developments ahead of us and an urgent humanitarian crisis that requires an international mobilization to deal with and counter it," he said. He added they appreciated the resolution issued by the United Nations Security Council, calling for urgent and extended humanitarian pauses in Gaza, "but we still need more efforts and cooperation." China — the world's second-largest economy after the US — has become increasingly outspoken on international affairs and even gotten directly involved in some recently, albeit cautiously.

global consequence".

Israeli officials insisted the ship was British-owned and Japanese-operated. However, ownership details in public shipping databases associated the ship's owners with Ray Car Carriers, founded by Abraham "Rami" Ungar, who is known as one of the richest men in Israel.

Ungar told The Associated Press he was aware of the incident but couldn't comment as he awaited details. A ship linked to him experienced an explosion in 2021 in the Gulf of Oman. Israeli media blamed it on Iran at the time. Authorities confirmed Monday that the captain and the first mate on the Galaxy Leader were Bulgarians.

Bulgaria's top police officer, Zhiyko Kotsev, told reporters that they were in touch with their families. "Nobody has sought contact with us up to this moment," he said.

International shipping often involves a series of management companies, flags and owners stretching across the globe in a single vessel. Two US defence officials confirmed that Houthi rebels seized the Galaxy Leader in the Red Sea on Sunday afternoon local time.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, foreground center, poses a group photo with his counterparts from left, Palestine Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Hissein Brahim Taha and their delegations prior to their meeting at the Diaoyutai state guesthouse in Beijing, Monday. China's foreign minister welcomed five Arab and Islamic counterparts to Beijing on Monday, saying his country would work with "our brothers and sisters" in the Arab and Islamic world to try to end the fighting in Gaza as soon as possible.

AP/PTI

OpenAI's new CEO launching probe into Altman's firing

AP ■ LONDON

The new head of ChatGPT maker OpenAI said Monday that he would launch an investigation into the firing of co-founder Sam Altman and work to reform the company's management following a corporate shakeup that shocked the artificial intelligence world. The developments come after a weekend of drama and speculation about how the power dynamics would shake out at OpenAI, whose chatbot kicked off the generative AI craze by producing human-like text, images, video and music.

It ended with former Twitch leader Emmett Shear taking over as OpenAI's interim chief executive and Microsoft announcing it was hiring Altman and OpenAI co-founder and former President Greg Brockman to lead a new advanced AI research team.

Despite the rift between the key players behind ChatGPT and the company they helped build, both Shear and Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella tweeted that they are committed to their partnership.

Microsoft invested bil-



lions of dollars in the startup and helped provide the computing power to run its AI systems. Nadella wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, that he was "extremely excited" to bring on the former executives of OpenAI and looked "forward to getting to know" Shear and the rest of the management team.

In reply on X, Altman said "the mission continues," while Brockman posted, "We are going to build something new & it will be incredible."

OpenAI said Friday that Altman was pushed out after a review found he was "not consistently candid in his communications" with the board of directors, which had lost confidence in his ability to lead the

company. In a post Monday on X, Shear said he would hire an independent investigator to look into what led up to Altman's ouster and write a report within 30 days.

"It's clear that the process and communications around Sam's removal has been handled very badly, which has seriously damaged our trust," wrote Shear, who co-founded Twitch, an Amazon-owned livestreaming service popular with video gamers.

He said he also plans in the next month to "reform the management and leadership team in light of recent departures into an effective force" and speak with employees, investors and customers.

After that, Shear said he would "drive changes in the organisation," including "significant governance changes if necessary". He noted that the reason behind the board removing Altman was not a "specific disagreement on safety".

OpenAI last week declined to answer questions on what Altman's alleged lack of candour was about. Its statement said his behaviour was hindering the board's ability to exercise its responsibilities.

Women make up more than half of 22 mins in new Cabinet of Spanish PM

AP ■ MADRID

Women will hold 12 of the 22 posts in the new government named Monday by Spain's recently reelected Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. "The new government is going to have a marked feminist accent with four women deputy prime ministers and more female ministers than male ministers," Sánchez said.

The Cabinet will include nine new ministers while key posts remain unchanged. Nadia Calvino keeps the economy portfolio, José Manuel Albarés remains in charge of foreign affairs and Margarita Robles stays at defense.

Sánchez's Socialist party will hold 17 ministries and its

leftist Sumar (Joining Forces) coalition partner will have five portfolios.

The outgoing government's former far-left coalition partner, Unidas Podemos (Unite We Can) will have no ministries and the party's former star Equality Minister Irene Montero will be replaced by Ana Redondo of the Socialist party.

Sánchez was reelected prime minister on Thursday with the support of 179 lawmakers in the 350-seat Parliament. His election was opposed by 171 deputies from the right of center Popular Party and the far-right Vox.

The socialist prime minister's new term has gotten off

to a stormy start after he clinched the support in parliament of two Catalan separatist parties in exchange for a controversial amnesty proposal for hundreds of people in legal trouble over the Catalonia region's failed secession attempt in 2017.

The proposal has triggered massive protests called by the Popular Party and Vox.

Several held by extreme right-wing groups close to the Socialist party's headquarters in Madrid have ended in clashes with police.

Speaking Monday, Sánchez promised to "prioritise dialogue and negotiation in a legislature that will be key for the social and territorial cohesion of Spain".

Javier Milei wins Argentina's presidency

AP ■ BUENOS AIRES (ARGENTINA)

Javier Milei resoundingly won Argentina's presidential election on Sunday, swinging the country to the right following a fiercely polarised campaign in which he promised a dramatic shake-up to the state to deal with soaring inflation and rising poverty. With 99.4 per cent of votes tallied in the presidential runoff, Milei had 55.7 per cent and Economy Minister Sergio Massa 44.3 per cent, according to Argentina's electoral authority.

It is the widest victory margin in a presidential race since the South American country's return to democracy in 1983. In the streets of Buenos Aires, drivers honked their horns and many took to the streets to celebrate in several neighbourhoods. Outside



Presidential candidate of the Liberty Advances coalition Javier Milei waves during his victory speech after winning the presidential runoff election in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sunday.

AP/PTI

Milei's party headquarters, a hotel in downtown Buenos Aires, a full-on party kicked off with supporters singing, buying beers from vendors and setting off coloured smoke bombs. They waved Argentine flags and the yellow Gadsden flag,

emblazoned with the words "Don't Tread On Me", which Milei's movement has adopted.

Inside, the self-described anarcho-capitalist who has been compared to former US President Donald Trump, delivered his victory speech,

saying the "reconstruction of Argentina begins today".

Argentina's situation is critical. The changes our country needs are drastic. There is no room for gradualism, no room for lukewarm measures," Milei told supporters, who chanted "Liberty, liberty!" and "Let them all leave" in a reference to the country's political class.

Massa of the ruling Peronist party had already conceded defeat, saying Argentines "chose another path".

"Starting tomorrow ... guaranteeing the political, social and economic functions is the responsibility of the new president. I hope he does," Massa said.

With a Milei victory, the country will take an abrupt shift rightward and a freshman lawmaker who got his start as a television talking head blast-

ing what he called the "political caste" will assume the presidency. Inflation has soared above 140 per cent and poverty has worsened while Massa has held his post. Milei has said he would slash the size of the government, dollarise the economy and eliminate the Central Bank as a way to tackle galloping inflation that he blames on successive governments printing money indiscriminately in order to fund public spending. He also espouses several conservative social policies, including an opposition to sex education in schools and abortion, which Argentina's Congress legalised in 2020.

"This is a triumph that is less due to Milei and his peculiarities and particularities and more to the demand for change," said Lucas Romero, the head of Synopsis, a local political consulting firm.

Teachers rape 15 minor male students in Pak

Lahore (PTI): At least 15 minor male students at a seminary were allegedly raped by two teachers in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Monday, days after the suspects were arrested.

The incident took place in Chakwal district, some 275 km from Lahore, Punjab Inspector General Police (IGP) Usman Anwar told reporters here. Both the teachers, identified as Zeeshan and Anis, have been arrested and are being interrogated, he said. "The two teachers of a seminary in Chakwal district sexually assaulted at least 15 male students, aged between 10 and 12. The number may increase during the course of the investigation," the IGP said.

London Deputy Mayor Rajesh Agarwal eyes Parliament seat from Leicester

AP ■ LONDON

Indian-born entrepreneur and London's Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, has been selected by the Opposition Labour Party as its parliamentary candidate to contest from the constituency of Leicester East in the next general election.

Agrawal, 46, took to social media on Sunday to announce his selection and pledged to deliver as a member of Parliament for all residents of a constituency that represents one of the largest South Asian origin populations in the UK.

In a local parliamentary contest, he beat another Indian-origin prospective candidate Councillor Rishi Madhani to be



named Labour's choice for the next polls — expected in 2024.

"I'm honoured to be selected as the Labour Party's Parliamentary candidate for Leicester East," Agrawal posted on X.

"It's time to use this auspicious moment to reset Leicester East, with a Labour MP who'll deliver for everyone who lives

here. Together, let's get Britain's future back," he said.

The Labour politician, who has the backing of London Mayor Sadiq Khan among others, pledged to continue to champion the ideals he has been committed to as London's Deputy Mayor.

"As London's Deputy Mayor for Business, I've flown the British flag and championed our ideals around the world, attracting hundreds of millions in international investment; creating hundreds of thousands more jobs and giving over 255,000 people better employment conditions. I'll bring similar successes to Leicester East and make sure it gets its fair share," reads his mission statement. He reflects on his migrant journey 22

years ago when he arrived in the UK from India with little in his pocket and went on to set up a successful fintech business.

"As a fintech entrepreneur, I built a team that challenged the status quo by lowering the cost of moving money for migrant workers and businesses alike. I'm passionate about entrepreneurship and opportunity. It's why I'm standing to become your next Labour MP for Leicester East because I believe there's a Labour way to grow our economy; one that's pro-worker and pro-employer too," states Agrawal.

He lists championing Leicester's economy, helping residents with the cost-of-living crisis and creating affordable homes among his top priorities.

PNG volcano erupts, Japan says it's assessing tsunami risk to its islands

AP ■ TOKYO

A volcano in Papua New Guinea erupted on Monday, and the Japan Meteorological Agency said it was assessing a possible risk of a tsunami for Japanese coasts.

Mount Ulawun on the island of New Britain in Papua New Guinea erupted at around 3:30 pm (0630 GMT) Monday, spewing volcanic smoke as high as 15,000 meters (50,000 feet), the agency said, quoting the Volcanic Ash Advisory Center in Darwin, Australia.

The agency said it was assessing a possible impact, including the risk of a tsunami approaching Japan later

Monday.

First tsunami waves could reach Izu and Ogasawara islands about three hours after the shaking caused by the eruption, JMA said.

The agency has not issued any tsunami advisory or warning. It said that no notable change to sea levels has been detected at observation sites in and outside Japan. Papua New Guinea's Geohazards Management Division said Ulawun's volcanic activity started Monday afternoon.

The eruption is expected to continue indefinitely, it said, and raised the volcano's risk level to the highest stage of four. Ulawun is one of the most active volcanoes in

Papua New Guinea, which sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," the arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where much of the world's earthquake and volcanic activity occurs. Ulawun has repeatedly erupted since 1700s, and had a last major eruption in 2019.

Geoscience Australia, a government agency, said there was no tsunami warning for Australian waters.

The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue any warning.

JMA, however, urged coastal residents to stay cautious in case of a delayed tsunami. It said it could not immediately predict a possible size of the waves.

US defence secy meets Zelenskyy in Kyiv

AP ■ KYIV

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin made an unannounced visit to Kyiv on Monday in a high-profile push to keep money and weapons flowing to Ukraine even as US and international resources are stretched by the new global risks raised by the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Austin, who travelled to Kyiv by train from Poland, met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and was scheduled to meet with Defence Minister Rustem Umerov and Chief of Staff Gen Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

US officials said Austin intended to tell Ukrainian officials that American support for efforts to defeat Russia's invasion is steadfast and will continue, even as the world's attention is drawn to the Middle East and signs of fatigue set in with the almost 21-month war.

"I'm here today to deliver an important message — the United States will continue to stand with Ukraine in their fight for freedom against Russia's aggression, both now and into the future," Austin posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

This is Austin's second trip to Kyiv, but he's making it under far different circumstances. His first visit occurred in April 2022, just two months after the start of the war. At the time, Ukraine was riding a wave of global rage at Moscow's invasion, and Austin launched an international effort that now sees 50 countries meet monthly to coordinate on what weapons, training and other support could be pushed to Kyiv.

But the conflict in Gaza could pull attention and resources from the Ukraine



fight. The US has worked feverishly since the Oct 7 attacks by Hamas on Israel, and the weeks of devastating bombardment on Gaza by Israel that has followed, killing more than 10,000 civilians, to keep those attacks from turning into a regional war. The US has already committed two carrier strike groups, scores of fighter jets and thousands of US personnel to the Middle East, and has had to shift its force posture and conduct airstrikes against Iranian-backed militant groups that are now hitting US bases in Iraq and Syria on a regular basis. To date, Ukraine has received more than \$44 billion from the US and more than \$35 billion from other allies in weapons, ranging from millions of bullets to air defence systems, advanced European and US battle tanks and, finally,

pledges for F-16 fighter jets.

But Ukraine still needs more, and after almost 20 months of shipping arms to Ukraine, cracks are beginning to show. Some European countries such as Poland have scaled back support, noting their need to maintain adequate fighting ability to defend themselves.

Ukrainian officials have strongly pushed back on suggestions they are in a stalemate with Russia after a long-awaited counteroffensive over the summer did not radically change the battle lines on the ground.

In a visit to Washington last week, Andriy Yermak, head of the president's office, provided no details but confirmed that Ukrainian forces had finally pushed through to the east bank of the Dnieper River, which has essentially served as

the immovable front line between Ukrainian and Russian forces for months.

However, as winter sets in it will become more difficult for either side to make large gains due to ground conditions. That could further work against Ukraine if US lawmakers perceive there's time to wait before more funds are needed. A senior defence official travelling with Austin told reporters on the trip that the US expects that this winter Russia will go after Ukraine's infrastructure again, like the power grid, making air defences critical.

Fred Kagan, a senior resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, said it would be a mistake to think there is time to wait.

"If stop providing aid to Ukraine, it's not that the stalemate continues. The aid is

actually essential to preventing the Russians from beginning to maneuver again in ways that can allow them to defeat Ukraine," Kagan said. "So the cost of cutting off aid is that Russia wins and Ukraine loses and NATO loses." Further complicating the support is that the Pentagon has only a dwindling amount of money left in this year's budget to keep sending weapons to Ukraine, and Congress is months late on getting a new budget passed and has not taken up a supplemental spending package that would include Ukraine aid.

Since the war began in February 2022, the US has provided more than \$44.2 billion in weapons to Ukraine, but the funding is nearly gone. The Pentagon can send about \$5 billion more in weapons and equipment from its own stocks. But it only has about \$1 billion in funding to replace those stocks. As a result, recent announcements of weapons support have been of much smaller dollar amounts than in months past. "You have seen smaller packages, because we need to parse these out," Pentagon deputy press secretary Sabrina Singh said Thursday. "Because we don't know when Congress is going to pass our supplemental package."

Officials have been urging Congress to provide additional money, but a growing number of Senate Republicans have opposed additional Ukraine aid without securing support for other unrelated provisions, such as stricter immigration laws and additional funding for border control. A stopgap spending bill passed last week to avoid a government shutdown during the holidays did not include any money for Ukraine.

Hsiao Bi-khim picked as vice presidential candidate in Taiwan

Taipei (AP) The front-runner in Taiwan's presidential race has picked the long-term de facto ambassador to the United States as his vice presidential candidate. Vice President William Lai announced Monday on his Facebook page the nomination of Hsiao Bi-khim — who was born in Japan to a Taiwanese father and an American mother — as his running mate in January's elections. His choice would likely bolster support among backers of his ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which has long defied Beijing's demands to return the island under the rule of the authoritarian Communist Party.

Lai and Hsiao face a divided opposition, led by the Nationalist Party, also known as the Kuomintang or KMT, that has sought to draw independent candidates to their ticket. Polls show Lai is ahead, but China is believed to be seeking to influence business groups and media. Lai currently serves as vice president to President Tsai Ing-wen, who is restricted from running for a third four-year term. In his Facebook post, Tsai said Hsiao had been crucial to cooperation with the US, Taiwan's chief ally.

"This team, following President Tsai's eight years in power, is completely prepared to withstand all challenges, both domestically and from China," Lai's post said.

Hsiao later told a news conference that she had been prepared well to deal with a range of challenges by her upbringing, her years as a legislator representing eastern Taiwan and her eight years as Taiwan's representative in Washington.

TOSHAKHANA CORRUPTION CASE

Anti-graft body ordered to record Nawaz Sharif statement by Nov 30

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

An accountability court here on Monday ordered Pakistan's anti-graft body to record former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's statement by November 30 in the Toshakhana corruption case.

Judge Muhammad Bashir of the accountability court in Islamabad heard the Toshakhana corruption case against the 73-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo who returned to Pakistan on October 21 after about four years of self-imposed exile in London.

Sharif's lawyer, Qazi Misbah, urged the court to issue directions to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on recording the three-time prime minister's statements in the case. "A supplementary reference needs to be filed ...

a reference was filed in the absence of Nawaz," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper. "We want the NAB to record Nawaz's position," he added. The NAB prosecutor sought time to go through the petition. However, Judge Bashir ordered the accountability bureau to record Sharif's statements in the case by November 30 and adjourned the proceedings till then. "What is the problem? Call Nawaz Sharif and record his statement," Judge Bashir was quoted as saying.

In June 2020, an accountability court issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Sharif when he was in London

and, in September, declared him a proclaimed offender in the Toshakhana vehicles case.

Former president Asif Ali Zardari, 68, and ex-prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, 71, are also accused in the same case.

In the case, the NAB accused Sharif and Zardari of illegally retaining expensive vehicles gifted to them by various foreign countries and dignitaries instead of depositing them in the Toshakhana, the state depository.

According to the country's top anti-corruption body, Zardari and Sharif got cars in 2008 by paying just 15 per cent of their price and Gilani, during his tenure as prime minister, facilitated the two in retaining the vehicles.

According to the rules, gifts given to officials should be deposited in the Toshakhana, established in 1974. Officials can, however, keep the gifts by paying a certain percentage of the price assessed by the Toshakhana evaluation committee.

Last month, ahead of Sharif's homecoming after an exile of four years, the accountability court granted the former premier bail and also suspended the perpetual arrest warrants after he surrendered before the court. The court confirmed his bail against surety bonds of Rs 1 million. Earlier this month, the court ordered authorities to release all properties and assets seized from Sharif in 2020 during a hearing of the Toshakhana case.

Seoul warns N Korea not to launch spy satellite

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea's military warned North Korea not to go ahead with its planned spy satellite launch, suggesting on Monday that Seoul could suspend an inter-Korean peace deal and resume frontline aerial surveillance in retaliation for a launch. North Korea failed in its first two attempts to put a military spy satellite into orbit earlier this year and didn't follow through with a vow to make a third attempt in October. South Korean officials said the delay was likely because North Korea is receiving Russian technological assistance and that the North could conduct a launch in coming days.

Senior South Korean military officer Kang Hopil urged North Korea to cancel its third launch attempt immediately.

"Our military will come up with necessary measures to protect the lives and safety of the people, if North Korea pushes ahead with a military spy satellite launch despite our warning," Kang said in a televised statement.

South Korean Defence Minister Shin Wonsik said in an interview with public broadcast-

er KBS on Sunday the launch was expected later this month and that South Korean and US authorities were monitoring North Korea's moves.

The UN Security Council bans any satellite launches by North Korea because it views them as a disguised test of its missile technology. Kang said while North Korea needs a spy satellite to improve its monitoring of South Korea, its launch is also aimed at bolstering its long-range missile programme.

South Korea has accused North Korea of receiving Russian technologies to enhance its nuclear and other military capabilities in return for supplying conventional arms to support Russia's war in Ukraine. Both Moscow and Pyongyang have dismissed as groundless the alleged arms transfer deal, but both nations — locked in separate, protracted security tensions with the United States — have been openly pushing to expand bilateral cooperation.

In September, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un travelled to Russia and met President Vladimir Putin in Cosmodrome, Russia's most important domestic launch centre. When Putin was asked by

Russia's state media whether his country would help the North build satellites, he said that "that's why we have come here. The (North Korean) leader shows keen interest in rocket technology."

Kang, the South Korean officer, didn't explicitly say what retaliatory steps South Korea could take if North Korea makes a third launch. But he strongly hinted the steps could include a suspension of 2018 inter-Korean military agreements requiring both Koreas to halt aerial surveillance activities and live-firing drills along their tense border.

Kang asserted that North Korea has already violated the 2018 agreement numerous times. He cited the North's destruction of an unoccupied inter-Korean liaison office in North Korea, flying drones into South Korean territory and staging firing drills along the maritime border.

"Despite the North's repeated violations of the agreement, our military has been patiently abiding by clauses in the military agreement, but that has caused considerable problems in our military's readiness," Kang said.

Nearly 1,000 Rohingya refugees arrive in Aceh region in one week

Lhokseumawe (AP): Almost 1,000 Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar have arrived by boat in Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh in the last six days, officials said Monday.

They included five groups with women and children who were afloat for days. One batch of more than 240 people was twice denied landing by residents in Aceh Utara district, sparking concerns from human rights organisations. The group finally disembarked in Bireuen district on Sunday morning.

"We thank the authorities and local communities who have received and granted landing permits for them and in the future we hope that this spirit of solidarity and humanity will continue to be extended to refugees who need assistance and protection," the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said in a statement. The refugees arriving in Aceh had endured a difficult sea journey.

Most of them left refugee camps in Bangladesh, where more than 700,000 had fled following a crackdown by Myanmar's army in August 2017. Myanmar security forces have been accused of mass rape, killings and the burning of thousands of Rohingya homes. Most of the refugees have attempted to reach Malaysia, but many have ended up in Indonesia along the way. "The thwarted landing of hundreds of Rohingya refugees is a big step back for Indonesia, where communities have previously shown generosity and humanity towards those seeking safety after perilous boat journeys," said Usman Hamid, executive director for Amnesty International Indonesia. Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, and does not have the obligation or capacity to accommodate refugees.

"Accommodation has been provided solely for humanitarian reasons. Ironically, many countries party to the convention actually closed their doors and even implemented a pushback policy toward the refugees," Lalu Muhammad Iqbal, the ministry's spokesperson, said in a statement. He said Indonesia's kindness in providing a temporary shelter has been widely exploited by people-smugglers who seek financial gain without caring about the risks faced by refugees, especially vulnerable groups such as women and children.



Democratic lawmakers throw flares during a parliament session in Tirana, Albania, on Monday. Albanian opposition lawmakers disrupted the Parliament's session again on Monday to protest against what they say is increasingly authoritarian rule by the governing Socialists

AP/PTI

More than 400,000 Afghans return home from Pakistan

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

More than 400,000 Afghans returned to their home country following the ongoing crackdown on illegal foreigners in the country, Pakistani authorities said Monday. Zabiullah Mujahid, chief spokesperson of the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan, confirmed the number and told The Associated Press that the majority have been using the border crossings of Torkham and Spin Boldak to return home.

An estimated 1.7 million Afghans had been living in Pakistan when authorities announced its nationwide crackdown, saying that anyone without proper documents had to leave the country by October 31 or else get arrested. However, Pakistani officials said the other 1.4 million Afghans registered as refugees need not worry as only people without proper documentation were sought after. In the 1980s, millions of Afghans fled to neighboring Pakistan during the Soviet occupation of their country. The numbers witnessed a spike after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021.

Pakistan also introduced plans under which hundreds of thousands of residents in the southwestern border town of Chaman would need visas to cross between the two countries. They previously had special permits.

On Monday, hundreds briefly blocked a key road

leading to the Chaman border, disrupting traffic and the repatriation of some of the Afghans.

Residents in Chaman have been protesting repeatedly, asking Pakistan to allow them to continue using the special permits for business purposes and to meet with relatives who live in the Afghan border city of Spin Boldak.

Since November 1, police in Pakistan have been going door-to-door to check migrants' documentation. Pakistani officials had said before that the crackdown involves all foreigners in

the country, but most of those affected are Afghan nationals.

The latest development comes days after the World Health Organization warned that about 1.3 million Afghans were expected to return to their country of origin from Pakistan despite the onset of cold weather. Such expulsions have drawn widespread criticism from international and domestic human rights groups.

The Taliban-led administration in Afghanistan said it was providing shelter and food to returnees.

Weeklong negotiations for landmark treaty to end plastic pollution close, marred in disagreements

AP ■ NAIROBI

The latest round of negotiations to craft a treaty to end global plastic pollution closed late on Sunday after strained talks in Nairobi, Kenya, where delegates failed to reach a consensus on how to advance a draft of the treaty after a week of negotiations.

Environmental advocates criticised the outcome of the weeklong United Nations-led meeting on plastic pollution, saying oil-producing countries successfully employed stalling tactics designed to weaken the treaty.

Delegates were expected to discuss a draft published in September that represented the views from the first two meetings.

The International Negotiating Committee for Plastics is mandated with creating the first international, legally binding treaty on plastic pollution in five rounds of negotiations. Member states decided to move forward with a revision of the draft, which has become longer during

this third round of negotiations and will be even more difficult to advance, participants said. States also failed to reach a consensus on intersectoral work to discuss crucial parts of the draft to be done ahead of the fourth round of negotiations.

"These negotiations have so far failed to deliver on their promise," said Ana Lê Rocha, the director of the global plastics program at the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives. "The bullies of the negotiations pushed their way through, despite the majority countries, with leadership from the African Bloc and other nations in the Global South, in support of an ambitious treaty." Throughout the week, delegates suggested options to strengthen proposed global rules across the entire lifecycle of plastic from production to disposal.

A coalition of "high-ambition" governments led by Rwanda and Norway hope to eradicate plastic pollution by 2040 by having a treaty that guarantees interventions throughout the whole life

cycle of plastics, including reducing output and restricting some chemicals used in the plastics industry.

But some oil-producing countries advocated for shifting previously agreed mandates of the treaty, like changing the focus from the full lifecycle of plastic to waste management, and having voluntary measures at national levels to fight plastic pollution, instead of global measures.

Environmentalists disagree. "The science is very clear, the data is very clear, and the moral imperative is very clear," said Graham Forbes, global plastics campaign lead at Greenpeace. "You cannot solve the plastic pollution crisis if you do not massively cut plastic production."

But Stewart Harris, a spokesperson of the International Council of Chemical Associations, sees an opportunity for the treaty to accelerate circularity, or the reuse of plastics. He hoped the agreement will set up "something like a requirement for governments to

establish circularity targets as part of their national action plans".

The world produces more than 430 million tons of plastic annually, and two thirds of that are products that are disposed of soon after use, becoming waste and, often getting into the human food chain, according to the United Nations. Global plastic waste is expected to nearly triple by 2060, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Plastics are often made from oil, or other planet-warming fossil fuels.

More than 1,900 participants from 161 countries, including government officials, representatives of intergovernmental organisations, and civil society members, took part in the talks. A total of 143 lobbyists registered for the negotiations, according to an analysis by the Centre for International Environmental Law.

Tadesse Amara, co-chair of the International Pollutants Elimination Network, worried that lobbyists could

"divert science from independent science to industry-based science" and "prevent the treaty from protecting human health in the environment". This week's negotiations were the third of five rounds. The next talks will take place in Ottawa, Canada in April 2024. Delegates have until the end of 2024 to produce a final draft. Jacob Kean-Hammerson, an ocean campaigner at the Environmental Investigation Agency, described the journey remaining to create the treaty as "treacherous".

"These negotiations ended with more questions than answers about how we can bridge the political divide and craft a treaty that stimulates positive change," he said.

Forbes, who led Greenpeace's delegation at the talks, said the stakes will be higher in the coming rounds of negotiations. "We are charging towards catastrophe," he said. "We have one year to turn this around, and to ensure that we are celebrating our collective success instead of doom-ing ourselves to a dark and dangerous future."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of my client, **Shri Likin Gera S/o Shri Manohar Lal Gera R/o 163 Sandringham Drive, Leeds, LS17 8DQ, UK.** That the order granted on **13/09/2023** by **HM Courts & Tribunals Service, U.K.** in Case No. **1679-6580-0735-6946** certifies that the marriage of **Likin Gera & Priyanka Gera** which was solemnized on **17/10/2012** and duly registered with **DC(S)/ADM/2012/9012** on **18/10/2012**, at New Delhi, India has legally ended. This marriage legally dissolved through mutual consent without any blame being attributed to either party or their respective families. Anyone engaging in any kind of business, financial, or social dealing with **Ms. Priyanka** would be doing so at his/her own risk and cost.

G.S.SINGH (Advocate)
B-825, FF, Sec-15, Rohini, Delhi-89. ☎ 9811297679

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813:
Website www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646123323)

Tender Inquiry No. PPR – 26/2023 Dated: 20-11-2023
Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites Engineer under three part bid system for supply of electrical equipment from interstate/intrastate sources viz, Generators, Traders having valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for interstate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 1st Dec 2023 to 29th Feb 2024. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstccommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to www.mstccommerce.com from 16.11.2023 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at www.mstccommerce.com

C-826/23

76155/12/2415/2023/29896 Dated CHD :- 11/20/2023

Blue Dart, India Post ink pact for parcel locker

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Express logistics provider Blue Dart on Monday said it has set up digital parcel locker service at post offices under a partnership with India Post. This service allows consignees to retrieve their shipments from digital parcel lockers at post offices, doing away with the need for personal receipts or signing for a package, Blue Dart said in a statement.

“Blue Dart and India Post forge strategic partnership for enhanced services. Under the collaboration, Blue Dart has introduced automated digital parcel lockers at selected post offices, offering customers an additional delivery method,” the statement said.

These parcel lockers keep their contents secure and are easily accessible. When the recipient needs to retrieve a package from the locker, they can simply enter the assigned code and open the locker, the company said. Additionally, the deliveries can be collected at any time, and only authorised personnel can access the packages.

Blue Dart Managing Director Balfour Manuel said this transformative partnership under-



scores unwavering commitment to exceptional customer service, providing customers the option to collect packages at their convenience. This initiative demonstrates the company's commitment to revolutionise hyper-connected city logistics, enhancing last-mile delivery efficiency while ensuring a reliable and secure experience for our customers in an increasingly digital and on-demand world.

Blue Dart Express Ltd is South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation and distribution company, offering delivery of consignments to over 56,000 locations in India.

Sensex, Nifty fall for 2nd day

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty stayed on the back foot for the second straight session on Monday due to selling in auto, utility and commodity shares amid high valuation concerns and fresh foreign fund outflows. In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 139.58 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 65,655.15. During the day, it fell 246.93 points or 0.37 per cent to 65,547.80.

The Nifty dropped by 37.80 points or 0.19 per cent to 19,694 as 27 of its components closed in the red, 21 in the green and two unchanged. Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Motors and JSW Steel were the major laggards.

Bharti Airtel, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services and Maruti were among the gainers.

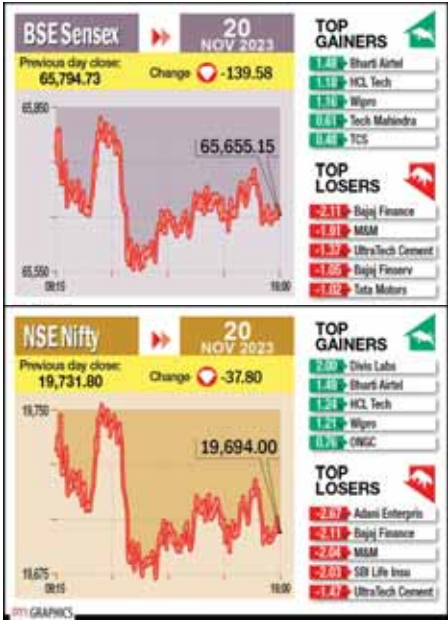
“Elevated long-term interest rate trends and a weakening global economy continue to hurt inflows and market movement. While the recent softening of inflation in the US & India and the negative trend of crude are expected to help the view on global equity and India in the short term.

“In that context, the ease in FII selling is helping the domestic markets but continues to consolidate primarily due to India's premium valuation relative to global peers,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In this scenario, the IT sector is benefitting; however, valuation continues to be on the higher side compared to long-term history, suggesting a cautious approach in the sector in the medium term, he added.

A mixed trend was witnessed on the sectoral front wherein IT posted decent gains while auto and metal ended in the red. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.39 per cent and midcap index dipped 0.06 per cent.

Among the indices, auto fell 0.69 per cent, com-



modities declined 0.66 per cent, capital goods (0.43 per cent), realty (0.33 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.30 per cent). Energy, healthcare, IT and tech were the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green, while Tokyo ended lower. European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended with marginal gains on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.74 per cent to USD 81.21 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 477.76 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark declined 187.75 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at 65,794.73 on Friday. The Nifty slipped 33.40 points or 0.17 per cent to 19,731.80.

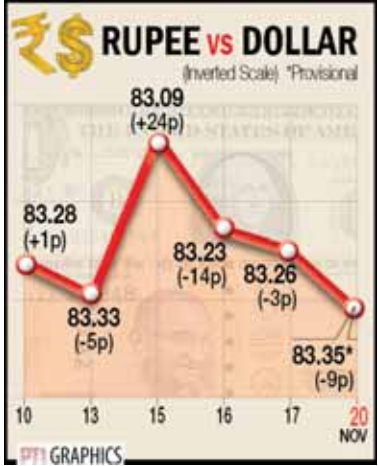
Rupee falls 9 paise to close at all-time low

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined by 9 paise to settle at its all-time low of 83.35 against the US dollar on Monday, tracking a negative trend in domestic equities. Foreign fund outflows also weighed on the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.25 and settled at its lifetime low level of 83.35 against the dollar, registering a fall of 9 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee settled at 83.26 against the American currency. Earlier, the rupee closed at its lowest level of 83.33 against the dollar on November 13, this year.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.42 per cent lower at 103.48. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.66 per cent to USD 81.14 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex fell 139.58 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at



65,655.15 points. The Nifty declined 37.80 points or 0.19 per cent to 19,694.00 points. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Friday as they sold shares worth Rs 477.76 crore, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, India's forex kitty decreased by USD 462 million to USD 590.321 billion for the week ended November 10, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. In the previous week, the overall reserves had increased by USD 4.672 billion to USD 590.783 billion.



GDP growth to dip a bit in 2024: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's real GDP growth will decline marginally to 6.3 per cent in 2024 from the 6.4 per cent estimated for 2023, an American brokerage firm said on Monday.

The next calendar year will be of two halves, wherein the government spending before the upcoming General Elections will be the key driver for growth, while after the elections, it will be the re-acceleration in investment growth, especially from the private sector, Goldman Sachs said in a report.

From a fiscal year perspective, the brokerage said it expects growth to accelerate to 6.5 per cent for FY25 from the 6.2 per cent it has projected for the ongoing FY24, it added. “India has the best structural growth prospects in the region. We believe GDP growth is likely to stay robust at 6.3 per cent y-o-y (year-on-year) in 2024,” the brokerage said, adding the country is less sensitive to potential external shocks like longer rates globally, persistent dollar strength and geopolitical uncertainties. The brokerage said risks around

the growth outlook are evenly balanced but added that “the main domestic risk” is emanating from political uncertainty, with elections approaching in the April-June quarter of 2024. The election season is already underway with Assembly polls in five states, which will be followed by the General Elections later, it said, adding that outcomes of these elections will be “keenly watched” by investors from the standpoint of economic reforms and/or policy continuity. It expects headline consumer price inflation to come at 5.1 per cent for 2024, against 4.7 per cent estimated by the Reserve Bank. This will, however, be lower than the 5.7 per cent expected in 2023, it added. “We expect the government to intervene through subsidies or other measures to keep a lid on food prices in an election year,” it said. The “somewhat elevated” inflation relative to the target will limit the room for monetary easing, and the RBI will cut rates by only 0.50 per cent to 6 per cent by early 2025, the brokerage said, adding that there will be a cut of 0.25 per cent each in Q4 2024 and Q1 2025.

Domestic flier traffic record high on Nov 19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The domestic air traffic touched a new high on Sunday as airlines carried 4,56,910 passengers, marking two “consecutive days of historic numbers”.

On Saturday also, the air traffic number reached a new high of 4,56,748 passengers, according to official data. “Post-Covid, India's domestic aviation's turn-around story has not just been overwhelming but inspiring as well. Positive attitude, progressive policies, and deep trust among passengers are taking it to new heights with every flight, every day,” the civil aviation ministry said in a post on X on Monday.

There were 4,56,910 domestic air passengers and 5,958 flight movements on Sunday (November 19). The count was much higher than the 3,93,391 passengers and 5,506 flight movements recorded on November 19 last year. Sharing the record numbers, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday said there is no stopping the country from becoming



the world's largest aviation market. “The josh is high-est sir! India's air passenger traffic breaks the previous day's record, thus marking two consecutive days of historic numbers. More than a feat for the aviation industry, it is a collective achievement for the people of India. “With this, there is no stopping us from becoming the world's largest aviation market!,” he said in a post on X. It was also the highest post-Covid air traffic for two consecutive days. India is one of the fastest-growing civil aviation markets in the world and domestic air passenger traffic registered an annual growth of nearly 11 per cent to 1.26 crore in October.

‘Future of coal is bright in India’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The future of coal in India is bright as there are technologies available which can help the country extract, use and combust the dry fuel far more sustainably, FutureCoal on Monday said.

Coal is considered to be the biggest contributor to climate change with thermal electricity being responsible for nearly 30 per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. “The future of coal in India is bright.....We believe that there are technologies that are available which can help India extract coal far more sustainably, use it far more sustainably, combust it far more sustainably, and post combustion treatment to coal can reduce Co2 emissions by as much as 99 per cent,” FutureCoal Board member Sunil Chaturvedi said.



The FutreCoal Global Alliance is an organisation representing the entire value chain and is dedicated to raising awareness on the contribution of the fossil fuel. He further said 70 per cent of electricity generation comes from coal. India has moved from last 15 years to supercritical and ultrasuper critical technologies. That means India as a country, is combusting coal far better, efficiently and in a less polluting manner. “This will continue because coal is not only for electricity generation....A lot of improvement has happened but things are still evolving,” Chaturvedi explained.

He said that by 2030 when the thermal power share will come down to 30-35 per cent or so, India will still need 1.5 billion tonne of coal. Therefore, production of the fossil fuel in India has to go up. FutureCoal Chief Executive Michelle Manook was of the view that the future of coal in India is exciting. “The total contribution made by the coal value chain in sectors, including power, steel, cement, aluminium, chemicals and renewable infrastructure is in the order of hundred of billion and is an interconnected global supply chain,” she explained.

EPFO adds 17.2L members in Sept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retirement fund body EPFO recorded a net addition of 17.21 lakh members in September, according to payroll data released on Monday. Month-on-month comparison of payroll data shows an increase of 21,475 net members over August 2023, a labour ministry statement said. Year-on-year comparison of payroll data reflects an increase of 38,262 net members over September 2022. Around 8.92 lakh new members enrolled during September 2023, the ministry said. Among these newly joined members, the age group of 18-25 years constitutes 58.92 per cent of total new members added during the month. This demonstrates that a majority of the members joining the

organised sector workforce of the country are youth, who are mostly first-time job seekers, it explained.

Payroll data shows that approximately 11.93 lakh members exited but rejoined EPFO, it stated.

These members switched their jobs and re-joined the establishments covered under the ambit of EPFO and opted to transfer their accumulations instead of applying for final settlement thus, extending their social security protection, it explained. As compared to the previous month, the number of exits decreased by 12.17 per cent with 3.64 lakh exits in September 2023. The data indicated that the



number of members exiting the EPFO has been declining since June 2023. The ministry stated that out of a total of 8.92 lakh new members added during the month, around 2.26 lakh are female

members, joining EPFO for the first time. Also, the net female member addition during the month stood at around 3.30 lakh. State-wise analysis of payroll data denotes that net member

addition is the highest in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Haryana. These states constitute around 57.42 per cent of net member addition, adding a total of 9.88 lakh members during the month. Of all the states, Maharashtra is leading by adding 20.42 per cent of net members during the month. Month-on-month comparison of industry-wise data displays significant growth in the members working in establishments engaged in the sugar industry, courier services, iron and steel, hospitals, travel agencies etc. Of the total net membership, around 41.46 per cent addition is from expert services (consist-

ing of manpower suppliers, normal contractors, security services, miscellaneous activities etc.) The above payroll data is provisional since the data generation is a continuous exercise, as updating employee record is a continuous process. The previous data hence gets updated every month. From April 2018, EPFO has been releasing payroll data covering the period from September 2017 onwards. In monthly payroll data, the count of members joining EPFO for the first time through an validated Universal Account Number (UAN), existing members exiting from coverage of EPFO and those who exited but re-joining as members, is taken to arrive at net monthly payroll, it stated.

Project cost doubled under Bharatmala: ICRA



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The project cost under the Bharatmala Pariyojana (BMP) programme has more than doubled to Rs 10.64 lakh crore owing to the steep rise in input costs and an increase in land acquisition costs, rating agency ICRA said on Monday. Bharatmala Pariyojana is the largest highway infrastructure programme in India which aims at the development of

34,800 kilometres of national highway corridors at an investment of Rs 5.35 lakh crore. “Pending the cabinet approval for the revised cost of Bharatmala Phase-I, project awarding activity in the recent quarters took a beating, declining by 48 per cent YoY to 2,595 km during 7mFY2024 compared to 5,007 km during 7mFY2023,” it said. The figures are for the first seven months of this fiscal

compared to the year-ago period. ICRA said it expects the awarding activity to contract over 30 per cent YoY (Year-on-Year) in FY2024. Giving more insights, ICRA VP & Co-Group Head Ashish Modani said almost 95 per cent of the road awards by the Ministry of Roads and Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in the last five years were awarded through the hybrid annuity mode (HAM) and the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) route, wherein the entire funding burden lay on the ministry. “The burden on MoRTH in case of BOT (Toll) projects is much lower, given the substantial cost escalation in the BMP and consequent increase in funding requirement,” he said, adding that the MoRTH has thus shifted its focus on to BOT (Toll) projects. ICRA said while the average number of bidders for the EPC and the HAM projects stood at 15 and 8, respectively, in the case of BOT (Toll), it remained below 5.

DMRC roped in as consultant for Bhubaneswar Metro

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) was roped in as a turn-key consultant for the construction of the Bhubaneswar Metro's first phase, from the airport to Trishulia Square in Cuttack, officials said on Monday.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Corporation and the DMRC for the project, which will be completed in four years, they said. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

said the agreement signals the emergence of a new epoch in the transportation history of Odisha. “We are now poised to transform the transportation landscape in the state's capital region. This is a flagship programme under the 5T (teamwork, technology, transparency, timely completion leading to transformation) initiative of the government that will also symbolise the emergence of a new Odisha,” he said. The first phase of the project will be built at a cost of Rs 6,255 crore, Patnaik said, adding that this is the single largest investment made for any infrastructure project in the state. The entire cost of the project will be borne by the state government, he added. “I am happy that my government is delivering yet another promise that was made in our 2019 manifesto” the chief minister said. Patnaik said DMRC is a pioneer in the field of construction and operation of metro rail in the country. He expressed confidence that the Bhubaneswar Metro will be of world-class standard, and will be completed in time.

Housing & Urban Development Minister Usha Devi, Science & Technology Minister Ashok Panda and Chief Secretary PK Jena were among those present at the function, which the CM addressed virtually. DMRC MD Vikas Kumar said that it was an apt time to start transit-oriented development in Odisha. “It will spruce up the economy, and push growth and development in the region,” he said. The first phase of Bhubaneswar will be 26 km long, and have 20 stations. The whole stretch will be elevated.

reach the USD 5-7 trillion mark the way it is growing,” Aggarwal said. And if the economy grows, the commercial vehicle industry also grows because when more goods are produced more commercial vehicles are required to move them from one place to another, he noted.



Commercial vehicle segment set for growth: VECV MD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic commercial vehicle industry is expected to touch the peak sales volume of 2018-19 this fiscal and grow briskly over the next few years coinciding with the growth of the overall economy, VE Commercial Vehicles MD and CEO Vinod Aggarwal said on Monday.

He noted in the first seven months (April-October), the heavy duty truck segment has grown by 15 per cent.

“We are expecting that this year the industry should either be very near to the peak or it may even cross earlier peak of 2018-19,” Aggarwal told PTI here in an interaction. The industry is expected to grow over the next few years with the economy slated to cross the USD 5 trillion mark, he noted. “There are fundamental reasons for this growth in the next few years. If we look at the economy, we are now at around USD 4 trillion mark and this economy is going to

reach the USD 5-7 trillion mark the way it is growing,” Aggarwal said. And if the economy grows, the commercial vehicle industry also grows because when more goods are produced more commercial vehicles are required to move them from one place to another, he noted.

Institutionalised elderly care need of hour: Secy Social Justice Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Secretary, Dr Saurabh Garg, on Friday said the institutionalised care of elderly people is the need of the hour and cannot be avoided. “It is old concept in mind and also suitable to cultural traditions that aging at home is commonly accepted and encouraged. But at the same time the institutionalised care is somewhat which is needed and required and as time goes by it would be needed in a much greater way,” the secretary said at 4th ASLI Ageing fest. The Association of Senior Living India (ASLI) is a premier national voluntary membership association that addresses the needs of ageing population by establishing communication platforms that educate seniors about the diverse models of structured care available and the essential principles of quality care.

SARITA BAGS BRONZE; SHEETAL, RAKESH IN LINE FOR GOLD



PTI ■ BANGKOK

Sarita Devi won a bronze, while India is also assured of at least two silver medals with Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi entering the finals of their events in the Para Asian Archery Championship here on Monday. Sarita got the better of Jyoti

Baliyan 139-135 in an all-Indian bronze playoff in the women's compound open section. Fresh from winning the Para Asian Games gold, Sheetal overcame Sarita 143-138 in an all-Indian semifinal to make the gold medal clash in the women's compound open category. Sheetal will take on Singapore's

Nur Syahidah Alim who defeated Jyoti 150-138 in the other semifinal. Rakesh assured India of another silver advancing into the men's compound open final. Rakesh pipped Yuya Oe of Japan 143-142 in the last four match. India will also be looking to add to their six quotas (four com-

pound and two recurve) for Paris Paralympics from the qualifying event that will begin here from November 23. India, however, failed to win any medal in recurve section with Tokyo Paralympic bronze medalist Harvinder Singh making a pre-quarterfinal exit. Harvinder went down 5-6 in a

shoot-off finish against Tomohiro Ueyama of Japan in the men's recurve section. Vivek Chikara lost 2-6 to second-seeded Chinese player Jun Gan in the last-eight round. In women's recurve, second-seeded Pooja made a last-eight exit, enduring a 0-6 loss to Selenge Demberel of Mongolia.



Prannoy, Sen to lead Indian charge at China Masters Super 750

PTI ■ SHENZHEN

Indian shuttlers, including comeback man HS Prannoy, will eye a good show at the China Masters — the season's last BWF Super 750 event — beginning here on Tuesday, in pursuit of valuable ranking points in the race to the Paris Olympics. Prannoy, who lost in the second round at the Japan Open Super 500 after returning to action following a back injury, will once again be the top Indian name in men's singles in the competition. He will face Taiwan's Chou Tien Chen, who had defeated him in the last meeting in Japan. The world No. 17 Lakshya Sen and world No. 23 Kidambi

Srikanth, who are fighting to be inside the top 16 by April 28 next year to qualify for the Olympics, will also be in action. Following his first-round exit last week after a loss to Japan's world championships silver medalist Kodai Naroaka, Sen will hope for a better outing when he faces seventh seed Shi Yuqi of China. With just four quarterfinal finishes in the season, Srikanth has not exactly looked the part and has often been guilty of falling in a pool of error. The former world No.1 skipped the Japan Masters last week and will face fourth seed Thai Kunlavut Vitidsarn, the reigning world champion. Priyanshu Rajawat, on the other hand, will meet Japan's

Kenta Nishimoto in his opener. The top seeded men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who are riding high on the success of an unprecedented year which saw them bagging gold medal at the Asian Games, will also aim a fruitful outing. Satwik and Chirag will hope last week's first-round exit was just a blip as they take on English pair Ben Lane and Sean Vendy in their opener. In women's doubles, Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly withdrew while Panda sisters — Rutaparna and Swetaparna — will be in the fray. Aakarshi Kashyap is the only Indian competing in women's singles, taking on China's Zhang Yi Man.



Mbappé reaches 300 career goals faster than Messi or Ronaldo

AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappé has scored 300 career goals faster than Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. Former France great Thierry Henry has nothing but admiration. Mbappé achieved the feat over the weekend in a 14-0 rout of Gibraltar at the age of 24 years and 333 days. Both Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, the game's two biggest stars in the 21st century, were older when they reached the milestone. "What this kid is doing is really out of this world," said Henry, who is now in charge of leading the new generation of France's players as coach of the Under-21 team. "It's just unbelievable." Mbappé was often compared to Henry earlier in his career. Both attended France's Clairefontaine academy before playing as left wingers at Monaco, where each won the French league titles as a teenager. Mbappé then replicated another of Henry's accomplishments when he won the 2018 World Cup in his first major tournament with France. Henry won the 1998 tournament. Mbappé has also been compared with Brazil great Pelé for his precocity. But in terms of style, with his devastating speed

and skills, he is closer to Henry. "He's a goalscorer, he delivers assists, he knows how to do everything," Henry said. "Of course, there's room for improvement, but that's not the point." With his 17th career hat-trick, Mbappé brought his season tally to 21 goals in 19 matches. It was the PSG star's 46th goal in 74 international appearances. He is now just five goals behind Henry on France's all-time scoring list and 10 off teammate Olivier Giroud's national record total. The exact number of goals in Pelé's career will forever be a topic for debate. He often said one of the reasons he should be considered the greatest player of all time was because of his feat of scoring more than 1,000 goals. But many dispute his count because Pelé included goals scored in friendlies or matches against semi-professional or even amateur teams. When asked how many goals Mbappé could reach, Henry jokingly hinted at the 1,000 mark, then said "it's up for him to decide." "He's a guy who breathes soccer, who prepares himself well, who doesn't do everything and anything, his professionalism and desire to play are always there," Henry said.

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

India will take inspiration from their famous goal-less draw against Asian champions Qatar four years ago when they face the same opponents in a 2026 FIFA World Cup second round qualifiers match here on Tuesday. Their confidence boosted after the 1-0 away win against Kuwait on November 16, India will hope to give a tough fight to Qatar, though the fancied visiting side will start as firm favourites. India had surprised the football fraternity when they soaked up waves of attacks to hold Qatar 0-0 on September 10, 2019 in their 2022 World Cup second round qualifiers in Doha. Qatar were then in red-hot form, having won the Asia Cup title in early 2019. Talismanic India captain Sunil Chhetri was absent in that match as he was indisposed and

he would be eager to show his class at the Kalinga Stadium on Tuesday, though scoring chances for the hosts are expected to be far less than the visitors. Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who had captained the team that night in Doha in front of a partisan expatriate crowd, will have to be at his best again on Tuesday to thwart the marauding Qataris as he had done four years ago. Ranked 61 in the world, Qatar are coming off a 8-1 thrashing of Afghanistan in their earlier match in Doha on November 16, and they would be looking to make the record of the drawn game in 2019 straight with a dominating win against the 102nd-ranked India. Qatar were 1-0 victors in the reverse fixture of the two teams in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers. Star striker Almoez Ali, who struck four times against



Afghanistan the other day and was the top-scorer for Qatar at the 2019 Asian Cup with nine goals, would be the man to watch out for as he can create trouble at the Indian defence, which looked weak in the absence of Anwar Ali. Sandhu would remember that he and India were lucky in Doha in 2019 as Ali was denied by the upright and the Indian custodian will have to marshal

the defence, along with veteran Sandesh Jhinghan. Head coach Igor Stimac could not use the services of both Ali and defensive midfielder Jeakson Singh in the Kuwait match due to injuries, and it was a blow to the plans of the Croatian tactician though India won the match. Ali had suffered an ankle injury in Mohun Bagan's AFC Cup match against Bashundhara

Kings of Bangladesh last month. Kerala Blasters player Jeakson suffered a shoulder injury in an Indian Super League match against Mumbai City FC and he had undergone a successful surgery early this month. Midfield mainstay Sahal Abdul Samad and Manvir Singh, who scored the lone goal for India against Kuwait, were there in Doha four years ago and they would look to make life difficult for the Qataris, more so after the duo's good outing in Kuwait City. Stimac was just a few months into India head coach's job in the 2019 match, and after four years, he feels a positive result against Qatar is "not unfeasible." "We have analysed Qatar from every angle and position and know very well what they are capable of in terms of speed and strength. Their defensive and offensive positions are immaculate, which they demonstrated against Afghanistan by scoring

eight goals," Stimac said. "It is going to be very difficult, Qatar are one of the pre-tournament favourites from the group. We do not have high expectations but we know we have a chance and we have to grab that with both hands. "The first and bigger part was accomplished by winning against Kuwait, now I want the boys to show their quality against Qatar," he said. India are placed in Group A alongside Qatar, Kuwait and Afghanistan with the top two from the group progressing to the third round of the FIFA World Cup qualifiers. The top two teams from each group will also secure qualification to the 2027 AFC Asian Cup. The Blue Tigers have never advanced to the third round of AFC's FIFA World Cup qualifiers but they now have a high chance of doing so after their 1-0 win over Kuwait.

India captain Savita eyeing hat-trick of Goalkeeper-of-the-Year titles

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India captain Savita Punia remained in contention for securing a hat-trick of Goalkeeper-of-the-Year Award after she was nominated for the recognition for a third time in a row at this year's FIH Hockey Star Awards. "I never thought I would win this award for two straight years, and get nominated yet again," said Savita who had won the prestigious titles in 2021 and 2022. "I feel really great, and it's a proud moment for me, my family and my teammates as well." Savita has led the country to var-

ious important wins in recent years, including the title triumph at the inaugural FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2022 in Spain that helped India earn promotion to the FIH Pro League 2023-24. "When I started playing, I never thought I would come this far, and it is all due to the support of my family and my teammates. "In team sport, no achievement is based on individual efforts but is an outcome of teamwork. It's great to be recognised for your hard work, and it motivates the entire team," she added. She also led the team to the bronze medal at this year's Hangzhou Asian Games fol-



lowed by the title win at the Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi. Under her captaincy, India also achieved their highest-ever world ranking, reaching No. 6. "It has been an amazing season for us. I'm just proud of how we overcame the obstacles that were thrown our way. We've gotten better with each game. Even the younger players have shown

great tenacity; they have worked hard and given their all," Savita said. With the focus firmly on the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers in Ranchi from January 13-19, the Indian women's team will be aiming for a top-three finish to secure their Paris Olympics ticket. India are placed in Pool B alongside New Zealand, the United States, and Italy. Pool A consists of Germany, Japan, Chile, and the Czech Republic. The top two teams from each group will then progress to the semi-finals, and the top three finishing teams will secure their qualification for the Paris Olympics.



Gavi's knee injury overshadows Spain's 3-1 win against Georgia

AP ■ VALLADOLID (SPAIN)

Ferran Torres scored and had an assist for Spain in its 3-1 home win against Georgia in a European Championship qualifying game that was overshadowed by a potentially serious knee injury for midfielder Gavi. Gavi was in tears when he limped off in the 24th minute in Valladolid on Sunday. Gavi's goal for Spain in a 1-0 win at Norway in October had already secured spots for both Spain and Scotland at next year's tournament in Germany. The 19-year-old Barcelona player took a hard hit to the side of his right knee when he collided with an opponent. He kept playing for a few minutes and appeared to hurt the same leg while trying to control the ball. After that he immediately signaled to the team that he could not continue. Spain coach Luis de la Fuente embraced his young player before Gavi was taken into the locker room with team doctors. Robin Le Normand gave Spain

the lead four minutes into the game when Torres curled a cross to the second post for the Real Sociedad central defender to head home. Georgia's Khvicha Kvaratskhelia equalized on a counterattack in the 10th after some hesitant defending by Le Normand and Dani Carvajal. Giorgi Mamardashvili kept the score level at halftime after the Georgia goalkeeper, who plays for Spanish club Valencia, made a reflex save to parry Álvaro Morata's point-blank shot. Torres scored from José Gaya's cross in the 55th with his header bouncing off the turf and beyond the reach of Mamardashvili. Torres ran to the dugout and held up Gavi's jersey during his celebrations to dedicate the goal to his club teammate. "We don't know the extent of the injury, but given that we know what a warrior Gavi is and how he left the field, we think it could be serious," Torres said. "We hope he can recover as soon as possible."

Amy captures her first American LPGA title

AP ■ NAPLES (US)

Amy Yang picked a lucrative time for her first LPGA title on American soil. Yang birdied her last two holes for a 6-under 66 to win the CME Group Tour Championship and claim the USD 2 million prize, matching the largest in women's golf. The victory was her fifth on the LPGA Tour, the previous four coming in Asia. Yang holed out for eagle on the 13th fairway to overcome an early three-shot deficit, and then she let Nasa Hataoka make the mistakes in crucial moments down the stretch. All 60 players who qualified for the season finale only had to win to become the Race to CME Globe champion. Yang finished in style, making a 10-foot birdie putt. The 34-year-old from South Korea dropped her putter and cupped both hands over her face as a half-dozen players charged onto the

green and soaked her with so much bubbly she wrapped a towel on her shoulders as she went to sign her card. Hataoka closed with a 69 and Alison Lee had a 66 to tie for second. Lee was never closer than two shots along the back nine at Tiburon Golf Club. Lee, still winless on the LPGA Tour, closed out her season with three runner-up finishes on the LPGA and a victory in Saudi Arabia on the Ladies European Tour. Yang trailed by three shots through six holes of the final round when she charged back into the mix with three birdies over a four-hole stretch. The pivotal shot was holing out her approach on the par-4 13th, the ball landing near the pin and then spinning back about 6 feet into the cup. Hataoka answered with a 10-foot birdie putt, and they were tied going to the final three holes. That's when Hataoka, a 24-year-old



from Japan, blinked first. Her birdie putt from the fringe ran some 6 feet by the hole, and the par putt caught the lip. That ended 35 straight holes without a bogey, and left her one shot behind. On the par-5 17th, Hataoka missed left down a steep ridge, with the pin cut to the left. She bumped her chip to 8 feet and missed the birdie chance. Yang, who also was left but short enough to hit a lofted pitch, nearly holed it and had a 3-foot birdie putt that gave her a two-shot lead going to the 18th. She never looked anything but calm, splitting the soft fairway, and not even watching the full flight of her approach that rolled out to 10 feet below the hole. Lee had four birdies over her last eight holes. Lilia Vu, a two-time major champion this year and No. 1 in the women's world ranking, closed with a 65 to finish alone in fourth and picked up a valuable prize of her own.

‘NOT EPIC CHOKE, JUST A BAD DAY’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The murmurs around India’s inability to land the knockout punch in a global event have grown since the ill-fated Sunday night but did the team, which looked invincible heading into the World Cup final, actually crack under pressure or was it just a bad day in the office?

Fears of a billion plus came true as Australia stitched together a perfect game to deny a rampant India who had not put a foot wrong during their stormy march to the final.

After 10 wins in a row, India’s unstoppable run came to a crashing halt in yet another trophy clash. Since winning the Champions Trophy in 2013, India have lost five ICC finals and three semifinals.

Considering India’s dominance heading into the final, the dejected look on faces of skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli after the six-wicket defeat was understandable.

The two greats of the game perhaps knew deep down that they might not get another shot at the crowning glory. The dust has not yet settled but India’s repeated failures on the world stage does warrant the question: did they choke or was it just an off day in an otherwise near perfect campaign?

Speaking to PTI, sports psychologist Gayatri Vartak, who works with elite Indian athletes, felt it was not a case of buckling under pressure and Australia were just tactically superior on the day.

“I don’t think there was any pure evidence of the team cracking mentally.

I don’t think they choked or could not perform under pressure. “All of them came into the tournament positively and had great build up to the final. As a player your reference point (over your mindset) becomes your last game and not what happened in a final three years ago. The last game was the semifinal which they won,” said Vartak.

Diya Jain, a sports psychologist at Fortis Hospital, said the big match pressure can take a toll on elite athletes but India’s performance should be celebrated. “Any team can have a bad day, it’s important to accept it and learn from it. Australia had a plan and they stuck to it, believed in themselves and were zoned-in. The pressure of big matches can take a toll, and mental preparation is key.

“That said, this is not the time for analysis, it’s time to celebrate. Being a World Cup finalist and winning 10 matches on the trot is a remarkable feat,” said Jain.

LIFE OF AN INDIAN CRICKETER MAKES WINNING A TAD HARDER: India’s larger than life cricketers often talk about shutting the “outside noise” to focus on the job at hand. Having said that, it is only human to get distracted when they are reminded of winning the coveted trophy in their fleeting public appearances at airports, hotels and stadiums, which is something they experienced over the course of the World Cup at home even with the “head phones” plugged at all times.

On the other hand, the feisty bunch of Australian cricketers, who excel at



the art of winning, are not treated as demigods back home. The fans undoubtedly make Indian cricket special and provide unconditional support to the players but their non-stop attention does add to the pressure.

Matthew Hayden, a member of the all-conquering Australian team and someone who is well versed with Indian cricket, spoke about the added pressure created by fans ahead of the World Test Championship final in June, another high-stake contest that India lost.

“It’s certainly not a question of skill. So, it has to be a question of just the

opportunity and the mindset going in. I mean, cricket is life here, it is the DNA of sport and has no other competitors.

“In Australia I could walk down the street and largely be unrecognised, here in India it’s very insular and there’s a lot of pressure,” Hayden had told PTI back then.

Vartak too agrees with Hayden that performing amid a constant frenzy does make winning a tad harder.

“For athletes, the Indian fan acts as a big fuel, they come from an emotional space, they can be very critical but they are also very, very supportive.

“I don’t think it is specific to India but fan behaviour tells us that typically they tend to worship their athletes (which is not the case with cricketers in Australia).

“With that in mind, the fan following of cricket is so high here and it is a religion for all of us. I would agree that it is harder for an Indian cricketer (to be insulated from pressure),” said Vartak.

NOT FAIR TO COMPARE THIS INDIAN TEAM WITH TEAMS OF THE PAST: The series of knockout defeats over the last 10 years tells a compelling story but Vartak also

believes that it is not fair to compare Indian teams of the past with the current lot.

“I am sure the composition of the Indian team was different over those games in the last 10 years. There is a tendency to talk about mental block when there is a defeat but when the team is winning no one talks about the mindset. It is a little unfair on the cricketers.

“Technically you can also fail at times and that was the case with India yesterday. Australia were the superior team technically and tactically, but it doesn’t become a mental issue.

“They did very well under pressure through the tournament and even won a knockout game. It was a just a bad day I would say,” she added.

‘INDIA WERE JUST UNFORTUNATE’: Former chief selector MSK Prasad, whose tenure saw India falling short in the 2017 Champions’ Trophy and 2019 ODI World Cup semifinal, acknowledged that the team has been losing knock-out games consistently but it is not down to crumbling under pressure.

“The result last night was really unfortunate. I know India have not performed in finals consistently (over last decade) but this team was head and shoulders above others in the tournament. It is their sheer hard luck that they could not go all the way.

“Credit must be given to Australia. They played excellent cricket and I feel India were 40-50 runs short.

Then the evening dew made it much easier for the Aussie batters,” said Prasad.



Cummins boards Sabarmati river cruise boat, poses with WC trophy

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A day after winning the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup, Australian captain Pat Cummins on Monday posed for photos with the trophy on a Sabarmati river cruise vessel housing a restaurant in Ahmedabad.

Australia defeated hosts India by 6 wickets on Sunday in the final match at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera in Ahmedabad to lift the ODI World Cup for the sixth time — the most by any team in the world. Cummins, along with International Cricket Council (ICC) officials, reached the iconic Sabarmati Riverfront in the morning and boarded a floating restaurant named ‘Akshar River Cruise’ in the river for a photoshoot with the trophy.

“It is a matter of great pride for all of us that the ICC selected the Sabarmati Riverfront, an iconic place, for its official photoshoot. Cummins gave various poses with the trophy on the upper deck of the cruise. He was also served a variety of food items,” said Suhag Modi, director of Akshar Travels Pvt Ltd, which operates the cruise restaurant.

In some of the photos clicked by the ICC’s official photographer, the 30-year-old fast bowler could be seen standing with the World Cup trophy on the deck with the iconic Atal Bridge in the background. Modi said Cummins also gave an interview on-board the cruise vessel.

World Cup final: Australia’s grunt work trumps India’s flair

PTI ■ BENGALURU

In a grainy YouTube video, football legend Gerd Muller describes how Germany defeated a great Netherlands side in the 1974 World Cup final. The whole conversation is brutally simple.

“A German team is not easy to bring down. We fought more than ever in that final, our best came on the last day,” Muller says in a feeble voice.

Those words are eerily similar to Pat Cummins “best for the last” comment after Australia plotted a marauding India’s downfall in the title clash of the 2023 cricket World Cup.

In fact, the champion sides think alike. Their disciplines might differ, but methods to success remain comparable.

And Australia is an iron-willed champion side, more so in the knockout stages of a global event. A look back to their last two matches in the showpiece will reveal that facet of their game. Both India and South Africa, their opponents in the semifinals, were perceived to be far superior despite the Aussies winning seven matches in a row to reach the knockouts.

The Australian pacers struggled to make an impact of desired levels during the entirety of the league stage but they returned to the best in the first available opportunity. The Kolkata weather and the Eden pitch helped them purchase some swing and bounce, and the triumvirate of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Cummins blew away the Proteas, sharing eight wickets among them.

On a progressively slowing down surface, the Aussies found

batting saviours in Josh Inglis, Starc and Cummins after South Africa’s bowlers reduced them to a shaky 137 for five.

However, Australia’s grunt work was pushed under the table as the focus was more on South Africa’s inclination to choke on these big moments.

But Australia’s real challenge was against India in the summit clash. This was not just another Indian team as under Rohit Sharma they had assembled one of the finest ODI outfits in their entire history.

They did not merely beat their opponents but lorded over them imperiously in 10 successive matches, something no other Indian team was able to achieve in the marquee event dating back to 1975.

Strangely, Rohit’s band was a mirror image of the dominant Australians at the turn of the century, an era when they went undefeated in 29 matches across three editions in 1999, 2003 and 2007. In a way, Cummins’ side had to beat India who was playing the Australian way. Australia were the underdogs, or so thought several of us.

So, what did Australia do? As Muller said in that interview, they found a way to fight even more than ever.

Cummins believed in the big match temperament of his bowlers and elected to bowl against an Indian batting unit that had been firing on all cylinders. There has been this common observation that a certain softness has seeped into the Aussies post the ‘Sandpaper Gate’. Perhaps, India’s two Test series win Down Under too might have added to that perception.

Cummins’ captaincy in World Cup final was brilliant: Paine

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia’s former Test skipper Tim Paine has praised Pat Cummins for his exemplary leadership and performance with the ball after their triumphant World Cup campaign in India.

Cummins led from the front and finished with impressive figures of 2/34 from his 10 overs, picking up the crucial wickets of Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer to restrict India to a modest 240. His bold decision to bowl first after winning the toss was hailed by many.

Australia then rode on Travis Head (137) and Marnus



Labuschagne (58 not out)’s 192-run fourth-wicket stand to beat India by six wickets and lift the coveted trophy for a record-extending sixth time.

“When we won the toss I think Pat Cummins shocked everyone

a bit with the call to bowl first,” Paine told SEN Radio.

“They obviously had some terrific mail - and they all have a lot of IPL experience and have been there - the mail on that ground is that the dew comes in

and it is extremely hard to bowl in the second innings, and I think we saw that.

“The concern was, I think, that being an Indian pitch and potentially being a bit drier that it would spin and slow right up and it didn’t do that, if anything it actually got slightly better,” he said.

Paine said Cummins did not put a foot wrong in the big finale on Sunday.

“I don’t think there was a thing last night that Pat Cummins got wrong. He was outstanding and he deserves a lot of credit for that. Andrew McDonald and his coaching staff deserve a lot of credit for that,” he said.

Rohit named skipper of ICC’s Team of World Cup featuring six Indians

scored most ODI centuries when he recorded his 50th ton in the semifinal.

With more than half of the ICC’s Team of the Tournament comprising Indian players, it was yet another indication of the fact that despite not winning the title, the hosts were the best side in the competition having registered a record 10 wins on the trot.

Wicketkeeper-batter and vice-captain KL Rahul, who made 452 runs at 75.33 with one century and two fifties, finished as the eighth-highest run-scorer in the World Cup and was named in the Team of the Tournament.

Despite missing four matches of the league stage initially, Mohammed Shami finished as the best bowler with 24 wickets in only seven matches at 12.20. “Only four players in the histo-



ry of the men’s game have taken more Cricket World Cup

was so often in action when the fielding restrictions were in place,” the ICC said.

Ravindra Jadeja featured in the team alongside Australia veteran Glenn Maxwell for his all-round exploits in the competition.

“India’s spin-bowling all-rounder played a crucial role for his team, taking key wickets throughout the middle overs and consistently turning the screw,” the ICC said.

South Africa’s wicketkeeper-batter Quinton de Kock, who is now retired from the ODI format given the World Cup is over, was named as one of the two openers in the competition having scored four centuries for the Proteas during their excellent run in the league stage.

The coveted No 4 slot went to New Zealand’s Daryl Mitchell, who was the only batter to have dominated the Indian bowlers when they were on song during their two meetings - one at the league stage and the other at the semifinals.


With 552 runs in 10 matches, Mitchell finished as the fifth highest run-getter with two tons and as many fifties.

Sri Lanka’s young Dilshan Madushanka’s was a standout performance in an otherwise forgettable World Cup campaign. His 21 wickets in nine matches saw him finish as the third highest wicket-taker.

Winners Australia’s sole spe-

cialist spinner Adam Zampa, who finished as the second-best bowler with 23 wickets in 11 matches, featured at the last spot while South Africa’s Gerald Coetzee was named the 12th man.

ICC’s Team of the Tournament: Rohit Sharma (c), Quinton de Kock, Virat Kohli, Daryl Mitchell, KL Rahul (wk), Glenn Maxwell, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Adam Zampa, Dilshan Madushanka. 12th man: Gerald Coetzee.



PUBLIC NOTICE
BEFORE SH. RAJIV TEWARI
ASSISTANT ESTATE OFFICER-III, EXERCISING THE POWER OF THE ESTATE OFFICER, U.T., CHANDIGARH.

Subject: Transfer of ownership to the extent of 100% share in respect of Built up Booth No. 234-235, Sector 35-C, U.T., Chandigarh (SNM-95) from the name of Sh. Balbir Singh S/o Late Sh. Santokh Singh in the name of Sh. Balbir Singh S/o Late Sh. Santokh Singh. Now, it has been informed by Sh. Jaswinder Singh & Sh. Harbhajan Singh that Sh. Balbir Singh S/o Late Sh. Santokh Singh had executed a transfer deed in their favour regarding the transfer of ownership of the said property, Sh. Jaswinder Singh & Sh. Harbhajan Singh have applied for transfer of ownership rights of 100% share in respect of Built up Booth No. 234-235, Sector 35-C, U.T., Chandigarh on the basis of Regd. Transfer Deed dated 13.11.2017.

It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office 100% share in the property known as Built up Booth No. 234-235, Sector 35-C, U.T., Chandigarh stands in the name of Sh. Balbir Singh S/o Late Sh. Santokh Singh. Now, it has been informed by Sh. Jaswinder Singh & Sh. Harbhajan Singh that Sh. Balbir Singh S/o Late Sh. Santokh Singh had executed a transfer deed in their favour regarding the transfer of ownership of the said property, Sh. Jaswinder Singh & Sh. Harbhajan Singh have applied for transfer of ownership rights of 100% share in respect of Built up Booth No. 234-235, Sector 35-C, U.T., Chandigarh on the basis of Regd. Transfer Deed duly registered with the Sub Registrar Chandigarh at Sr. No. 4561 book No. 1, Volume No. 255, Page No. dated 13.11.2017.

If anybody has any objection upon the transfer of ownership rights of the aforesaid property in favour of above named applicant(s), he/she/they may furnish the same in writing in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained at any later stage.

Rajiv Tewari,
Assistant Estate Officer-III,
Exercising the powers of the Estate Officer, U.T.,

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The deafening silence at the Narendra Modi Stadium, packed with over 90,000 fans, when Pat Cummins snuffed out the peerless Virat Kohli in the World Cup final was perhaps the “sweetest moment” the Australian skipper had ever experienced on a cricket field.

After becoming the fifth Australian captain to secure his country’s sixth ODI World Cup here on Sunday, Cummins admitted that he has “fallen in love with 50-over format all over again.”

He got Kohli, who was well-set on 54, with a delivery that had an extra bounce and the premier India batter played on trying to jab it towards the covers.

“Yeah, I think so,” Cummins nodded in affirmative when asked if the silence was his sweetest experience on a cricket field.

In fact, going against their custom, the Aussies had a second huddle to just acknowledge how big the moment in the game it was.

“We did take a second in the huddle just to acknowledge the silence that was going around

Silence in stadium when Virat got out was most satisfying: Cummins

the crowd. It just felt like it was one of those days where it was all made for him to score another hundred like he normally does and that was satisfying,” Cummins said.

He believes that ODI World Cup is here to stay as it has got its own legacy and also players have their stories to tell and perhaps, it is the bilateral series that become a problem.

“I must say, maybe because we won, I did fall in love with ODI again this World Cup. I think the scenario where every game really matters, it does mean a bit different to just a bilateral,” he acknowledged.

“I mean, the World Cup’s got such rich history, I’m sure it’s going to be around for a long time. Yeah, there’s so many wonderful games, so many wonderful stories within this last couple of months. So, I think there’s definitely a place.”

He lost his mother in March,



during a tour of India, which he had to curtail.

He returned, leading the country to the World Test Championship title, secured the coveted Ashes, and now clinched what he termed the “pinnacle of this sport.”

Australia’s ‘Captain Marvel’ has accomplished it all.

“Yeah, I mean at this moment just incredibly proud really of the year we’ve had. I have obviously had a really big year,” he said.

He spoke about the sacrifices made by everyone in the team and their families.

“I know my family at home is watching, just got a message from dad saying he’s had a lot of 4am wake ups, not going to bed until 4am, so he’s as pumped as anything. So yeah, you sacrifice a lot to play for Australia.”

But this was also about going through all of that in search of this day.

“Everyone in the team has and

we’ve spent a lot of this year away but we do it for these moments and my wife and two girls are probably asleep, but they’re all pumped, they do the journey with us.

“So, everyone’s got their own story, but there’s a lot of proud people out there in our team,” Cummins said.

From his hotel room, he saw Indian supporters, all clad in blue, walk towards the stadium.

He felt a sense of nervous energy, pacing up and down in his hotel room.

“I always like to say I’m pretty relaxed but I was a little bit nervous this morning,” he admitted.

“Just pacing around, waiting for it to start, seeing the sea of blue in the hotel getting closer to the ground. Observing the sea of blue, cars parked with selfie cameras out, you knew you were walking into something pretty special,” Cummins described his experience before the game.



Aavas
FINANCIERS LIMITED

Aavas FINANCIERS LIMITED
(Formerly known as AU HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED) (CIN:L65922RJ2011PLC034297)
Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

POSSESSION NOTICE
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Aavas FINANCIERS LIMITED (Formerly known as "AU HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned as below.

The borrower and Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Aavas FINANCIERS LIMITED (Formerly known as "AU HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED")** for an amount mentioned as below and further interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property	Date & Type of Possession
Harish Kumar, Mrs. SUMITRA DEVI (A/c No.) LNBH00517-180063242	11-Sep-23 ₹ 505760/- 4-Sep-23	PROPERTY SITUATED AT MUSTIL NO. 96, KILA NO. 18, VILL. DHARUHEDA, REWARI, HARYANA Admeasuring 154 Sq. Yard	Symbolic Possession taken on 18-Nov-23

Place : Jaipur Date: 21-11-2023 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited