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NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



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Rescuers perseverance pays

All 41 workers trapped in Uttarkashi tunnel safely evacuated after 16 days

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE /PTI ■ DEHRADUN/UTTARKASHI

As the workers trapped in the Silkyara tunnel emerged on Tuesday night, a mix of smiles and expressions of gratitude and exhaustion adorned their faces, marking the end of their 17-day ordeal. A collective sigh of relief swept across the nation. Outside the tunnel, loud cheers and slogans filled the air as people welcomed the ambulances transporting the workers to community health centres, and locals took to the streets to share in the jubilation.

Anxious relatives who had been camping in the area were emotional as they were united with the workers after days of uncertainty. Back home, many said they will celebrate Diwali now as the shadow of despair that had fallen on the families disappeared.

"Finally, God heard us. My brother could be rescued. I am with him in an ambulance on the way to hospital," Sunil, who was camping outside the tunnel in Uttarkashi, told PTI in a choked voice.

Sunil's brother Anil was among the three youths from Kherabera in Jharkhand who were trapped in the tunnel. "All are fine and healthy. I have spoken to a few of them," said a rescue worker as media persons who staked out at the site



Jubilance as the trapped workers come out of the collapsed Silkyara Tunnel in Uttarkashi on Tuesday. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Union Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways VK Singh greet them

for over two weeks and others rushed to ask about the well-being of the workers who were emerging from the tunnel where they were trapped since Diwali morning. Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded a successful operation that rescued 41 workers

trapped in an under-construction road tunnel in Uttarakhand on Tuesday, asserting that everyone involved in the mission has created an amazing example of humanity and teamwork. Modi also said the multi-agency rescue exercise has

made everyone emotional. In a post on X soon after the workers were brought out of the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi, the Prime Minister saluted the spirit of those involved in the operation and said their courage and resolve have given a new lease of life to

the 41 labourers. "Everyone involved in the mission has created an amazing example of humanity and teamwork. It is a matter of great satisfaction that these friends of ours will meet their dear ones after a long wait," Modi said. Uttarakhand Chief Minister

Pushkar Singh Dhami and Union minister VK Singh welcomed the 41 workers with garlands, shook hands and embraced them, while the rescue teams and officials clapped. Families of the workers, most of whom are from Jharkhand and UP, were glued to television and phones after the news emerged that they could be rescued any time. Sweets were distributed and crackers were burst at some places.

"It is like a new birth," said a relative of Dhiren and Benudhar in the Mayurbhanj district in Odisha. The families of six workers from Shrivasti, Uttar Pradesh, lighted candles and lamps around the house.

"We will celebrate Diwali now that my son is safe," said Anju, mother of Akhilesh, from Mirzapur.

In Khirabada, villagers distributed 'laddoos' after the successful rescue. Rajendra, Sukhran and Anil, all in their early 20s, from the village, were among those trapped inside the tunnel for 17 days. Sukhran's sister Khushboo said that everyone in their village was celebrating.

According to Ram Kumar Bediya, a villager, a group of 13 people, between 18 and 23, had left Khirabada on November 1 to work at the tunnel. When the disaster struck, three of them were working inside.

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Curbs on vehicles lifted as air betters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the air quality in Delhi and its surrounding areas marginally improved due to rain and favourable wind speed, influenced by a western disturbance affecting northwest India, the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) removed restrictions under stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) on Tuesday with immediate effect.

The commission allowed construction and demolition activities, as well as the operation of BS III petrol and BS IV diesel four-wheelers in Delhi and NCR, which were previously banned by this order.

The Commission stated that the restrictions under the first and second stages of GRAP will continue. According to air quality forecasts from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, there is no indication that the average air quality in Delhi will reach the "severe" category in the upcoming days for which forecasts are available.

The decision to revoke the third stage of the GRAP was made at the subcommittee meeting held on Tuesday following an improvement in air quality, it said. The average Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi was 365 at 8 am on Tuesday, which reduced to 312 at 4 pm, showing improvement from 395 on Monday. Light rain was reported in parts of the national capital, while the minimum temperature settled at 14.2 degrees Celsius, four notches above the season's average, on Tuesday.

According to the IMD, the National Capital recorded 7 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours till 8.30 am on Tuesday. The wind speed improved to 20 kilometres per hour, aiding in the dispersion of pollutants.

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Telangana gears up for high stakes polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

The curtains came down on the month-long high-pitched poll campaign in five States, with the last day of the campaign in Telangana on Tuesday. The State will go to polls on Thursday. The results, including those from the other four States (Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Mizoram), will be declared on December 3.

The State witnessed an electrified campaign by BRS, a high-powered BJP campaign led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with several roadshows, and a high-stakes campaign by the Congress, looking forward to forming its first government after the State was bifurcated by the UPA government. BRS has fielded candidates in all 119 seats. According to the seat-sharing agreement, BJP and Jana Sena are contesting in 111 and 8 seats, respectively, while Congress has given one seat to its ally CPI(M). Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM has put up candidates in nine segments in the city. BRS is trying to retain power for a third consecutive term, while Congress has been fighting tooth and nail to wrest power from it.

The BJP has left no stone unturned to come to power. A total of 2,290 contestants are in the fray for the upcoming elections, including BRS supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, his minister-son K T Rama Rao, TPCC

president A Revanth Reddy, and BJP Lok Sabha members Bandi Sanjay Kumar, D Arvind, and Soyam Babu Rao. KCR is contesting from Gajwel and Kamareddy, and Revanth Reddy is contesting from Kodangal and Kamareddy. The BJP fielded its MLA, Etala Rajender, from Gajwel, in addition to Huzurabad, where he is the incumbent legislator.

Apart from PM Modi, several Union ministers, including Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah, and Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, campaigned for votes for their respective party candidates. The BRS campaign centered around the failures of the previous Congress regime and ongoing welfare measures for farmers and women.

Rao also highlighted his struggle to achieve Telangana statehood. Congress focused mainly on the alleged corruption of the BRS government while highlighting its "six guarantees." BJP's campaign emphasised the necessity of a "double engine government" and pointed to the "family rule" of KCR, alleging corruption.

To the embarrassment of the ruling KCR government, the National Dam Safety Authority gave an adverse report on the sinking of a barrage, which is part of the Kaleshwaram irrigation project, providing ammunition to the Opposition. Over 2.5 lakh staff will be engaged in poll duties for the Assembly polls, Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj said.

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18 per cent candidates face criminal charges

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 18 per cent of the total 8,054 candidates contesting the elections in Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana have criminal cases registered against them. Telangana tops the list among, where major political parties including BRS, Congress, and BJP have fielded candidates with criminal records ranging from 24 to 72 per cent.

According to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), out of the 8,051 candidates analysed in five States who contested the Assembly elections, as many as 1,452 have criminal cases registered against them, while 959 are facing serious charges. For the 119-member Telangana Assembly, the ADR said it has the highest number of candidates with criminal records. Between 24 per cent and 72 per cent of candidates from all major parties contesting elections in the State have declared criminal cases against them. The political parties have fielded candidates with criminal records ranging from 6 per cent to 72 per cent in Rajasthan. Of the 2,290 candidates in Telangana, 521 (23 per cent) have criminal cases against

them, while 353 (15 per cent) have serious criminal cases against them, the report said. It also stated that BRS, which is contesting on all 119 seats in Telangana, has fielded 57 candidates with criminal cases against them, while 34 of them are facing serious criminal cases.

The figures are lowest for Mizoram, where between 3 per cent and 10 per cent of candidates from major parties have criminal records, and none of the candidates have declared cases related to crimes against women, attempt to murder, and murder.

In Chhattisgarh, out of 1,178 candidates analysed, 126 candidates have declared criminal cases, while 72 have serious cases against them. Out of 2,534 candidates analysed in Madhya Pradesh, 472 candidates have criminal cases against them, while 291 have declared serious criminal cases. In Rajasthan, the report claimed that out of 1,875 candidates, 326 are facing criminal cases while 236 are facing serious criminal cases. The report also said that Congress, which fielded 677 candidates, has 268 candidates with criminal cases and 162 with serious criminal cases.

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Commuters during a rainy morning at India Gate on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Gaza truce extended amid hostage release

AP ■ TEL AVIV

A truce between Israel and Hamas entered its fifth day on Tuesday, with the militant group promising to release more hostages to delay the expected resumption of the war and Israel under growing pressure to spare Palestinian civilians when it renews its offensive. The sides agreed to extend their truce through Wednesday, with another two planned exchanges of militant-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. But Israel

has vowed to resume the war with "full force" to destroy Hamas once it is clear that no more hostages will be freed under the deal.

The Biden administration has told Israel it must avoid "significant further displacement" and mass casualties among Palestinian civilians if it resumes the offensive, and that it must operate with more precision in southern Gaza than it has in the north, according to US officials. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House.

CIA director William Burns and David Barnea, who heads Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, were in Qatar, a key mediator with Hamas, to discuss extending the cease-fire and releasing more hostages, a diplomat said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

A US official confirmed Burns was in Qatar, speaking anonymously because the director's travel plans are not publicized for security reasons. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is set to visit the region

this week, also with an eye to extending the truce.

Hamas and other militants are still holding about 160 people, out of the 240 seized in their October 7 assault into southern Israel that ignited the war. That is enough to potentially extend the truce for another two weeks under the existing framework brokered by Qatar, Egypt and the US, but Hamas is expected to make much higher demands for the release of captive soldiers. Israel has vowed to end Hamas' 16-year rule in Gaza and crush its military capabilities.

India poised to become second largest egg producer

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The survey report from the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying indicated an upswing in the production of milk, eggs, and meat in the country. According to the report, the total milk production in the country is estimated to be 230.58 million tonnes in 2022-23, reflecting a 3.83 per cent increase over the estimates of 2021-22. The egg production is projected to be 138.38 billion, marking a 6.77 per cent rise compared to the previous year. This may make India the second largest producer of eggs.

Additionally, meat production is expected to reach 9.77 million tonnes, representing a 5.62 per cent increase over the previous year.

The survey report is based on the results of the Integrated Sample Survey (ISS), conducted nationwide in three seasons: Summer (March-June), Rainy (July-October), and Winter (November-February). India continues to maintain its position as the largest milk-producing country globally. According to the report, the total milk production in the country is estimated at 230.58 million tonnes during 2022-23, reflecting a growth of 22.81 per

cent over the past five years, from 187.75 million tonnes in 2018-19. Furthermore, there has been a 3.83 per cent increase in production during 2022-23 compared to the estimates of 2021-22. In previous years, the annual growth rates were 6.47 per cent in 2018-19, 5.69 per cent in 2019-20, 5.81 per cent in 2020-21, and 5.77 per cent in 2021-22.

The milk production from exotic/crossbred cattle increased by 6.16 per cent, while that from indigenous or non-descript cattle rose by 6.13 per cent compared to the previous year. Additionally, milk production from buffaloes



increased by 4.44 per cent compared to 2021, with indigenous buffaloes contributing 31.58 per cent of the total production, followed by 29.91 per cent from crossbred cattle. During 2022-23, the highest milk-producing state was Uttar Pradesh, accounting for 15.72 per cent of the total milk pro-

duction, followed by Rajasthan (14.44 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (8.73 per cent), Gujarat (7.49 per cent), and Andhra Pradesh (6.7 per cent). In terms of annual growth rate (AGR), Karnataka recorded the highest AGR at 8.76 per cent, followed by West Bengal at 8.65 per cent, and Uttar Pradesh at 6.99 per cent over the previous year.

The total egg production in the country is estimated to be 138.38 billion during 2022-23, marking a growth of 33.31 per cent over the past five years compared to the estimates of 103.80 billion in 2018-19. Furthermore, the production

increased annually by 6.77 per cent during 2022-23 over 2021-22. In the past, the annual growth rates were 9.02 per cent in 2018-19, 10.19 per cent in 2019-20, 6.70 per cent in 2020-21, and 6.19 per cent in 2021-22.

The contribution to the total egg production comes from Andhra Pradesh with a share of 20.13 per cent, followed by Tamil Nadu (15.58 per cent), Telangana (12.77 per cent), West Bengal (9.94 per cent), and Karnataka (6.51 per cent). In terms of the Annual Growth Rate (AGR), the highest growth rate was recorded by West Bengal (20.10 per cent), fol-

lowed by Sikkim (18.93 per cent), and UP (12.80 per cent). The total meat production in the country is estimated to be 9.77 million tonnes during 2022-23, registering a growth of 20.39 per cent over the past five years compared to the estimates of 8.11 million tonnes in 2018-19. Furthermore, the production increased by 5.13 per cent in 2022-23 over 2021-22. In the past, the growth rates were 5.99 per cent in 2018-19, 5.98 per cent in 2019-20, 2.30 per cent in 2020-21, and 5.62 per cent in 2021-22.

The major contribution to the total meat production comes from Uttar Pradesh with a

share of 12.20 per cent, followed by West Bengal (11.93 per cent), Maharashtra (11.50 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (11.20 per cent), and Telangana (11.06 per cent). In terms of the growth, the highest AGR was recorded in Sikkim (63.08 per cent), followed by Meghalaya (38.34 per cent), and Goa (22.98 per cent).

India's wool production rose by 2 per cent to 33.61 million kg during 2022-23, registering a negative growth of 16.84 per cent compared to 2018-19 when output was 40.42 million kg. However, the production increased by 2.12 per cent in 2022-23 over 2021-22.

Adhikari suspended from House day before Shah Kolkata rally

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what Left and the Congress saw a desperate move by the ruling Trinamool Congress to provide additional oxygen to a moribund State BJP, Adhikari the Bengal Opposition Leader and the saffron outfit's most recognisable face in the State was on Tuesday suspended for allegedly misbehaving with Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee. Adhikari's suspension came a day ahead of Amit Shah's Kolkata Chalo rally in the City of Joy after TMC and BJP MLAs exchanged heated words during a discussion on Constitution Day. The showdown took place while a resolution under Rule 169 was tabled in the House to discuss "how the Constitution of the country was under threat." During the discussions the two sides allegedly engaged in "slandering matches" when BJP's MLA from Siliguri questioned the constitutional propriety of BJP-turned-TMC MLAs' who had earlier defected to the ruling party --- continuation on their posts. "How these MLAs who won on BJP tickets but defected to the TMC are still continuing on their posts," Ghosh was quoted as asking. As the Speaker immediately issued instructions to expunge Ghosh's statement from the Assembly records Adhikari trooped down to the Well of the House and raised slogans against the



Speaker. Adhikari has been suspended for the entire Winter Session, Assembly sources said. Adhikari who immediately walked out of the House along with the BJP MLAs said, "today the Speaker has suspended me at the instance of the Chief Minister... but tomorrow the people of the State will suspend the TMC... they will be suspended in the coming elections." Senior TMC MLA Tapas Roy however defended the Speaker's action saying "he was repeatedly asked to go back to his seat but he would not... he used most unparliamentary words against the Speaker for which he had to be suspended." Even as the BJP MLAs staged a walk out from the House and moved a no-trust motion against Banerjee calling him "the most partisan Speaker the State has ever seen," TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh defended the Speaker's action

saying "a people's representative has to follow some parliamentary decorum in the House... there are some rules and decorum that have to be followed but here he broke all the barriers... despite repeated warning he continued to insult the Speaker... in such case what the Speaker would have done... would he treat him to Rasgullas... the Speaker has done the right thing." The TMC leaders also reminded how "Adhikari was suspended early this year also but was rescued by the Chief Minister who apologized before the Speaker and his suspension was withdrawn... instead of learning lessons he continued with his misdeavour and was suspended today." The Left however saw in Adhikari's suspension a "setting" between the BJP and TMC where the ruling party was affording the saffron outfit "some added oxygen before the elections." CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty said "at a time when the BJP's graph is falling very fast to the extent that their vote share has dropped to about 22 percent from 38 percent and at a time when the Left vote share has gone up to about 21 percent the TMC is giving them a new lease of life... but this time the setting between the two parties will not work." He reminded how even the Calcutta High Court earlier observed --- while passing an order on TMC Government's refusal to give permission for Amit Shah's rally at Esplanade in central Kolkata --- that it was TMC's ploy to give extra hype to the BJP. A rally that would not even see 10,000 attendances will now find 1 lakh people attending it, the Chief Justice of the High Court was reported to have told the Government advocate before allowing Tuesday's rally. Meanwhile the TMC has decided to observe a Black Day on Tuesday when the Union Home Minister would address a Kolkata Chalo rally apparently in support of the unpaid MNREGA workers whose payment had been blocked by the Centre allegedly because the State Government had failed to account for the past funds. Apart from the Home Minister the rally is also likely to be attended by Union Minister of State for Rural Development Giriraj Singh and his deputy Niranjan Jyoti.

Uddhav accuses CM Shinde of failing to attend farmers' woes

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Dubbing them once again as "one full-two-halves" of Maharashtra, former chief minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray hit out at chief minister Eknath Shinde and his two deputy chief ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar for "missing out from the scene" at a time when the State was facing major agricultural crop losses triggered by the unseasonal rains. Talking to media persons at his residence "Matoshri" at Bandra here, Uddhav said: "Where are one-full-two halves?... Looks like the one-full is away campaigning in another state (Telangana) and for another party... I gather that one-half is also campaigning in Telangana.. Another half, who was down with dengue some weeks ago, is missing." Singling out Shinde for criticism, Uddhav said: "There is a crisis in his own state... The state is reeling under unseasonal rains and consequent damage to crops. Instead of meeting farmers at the time of crisis and calling a Cabinet meeting to extend relief, the chief minister is in another state. What is he going to do in Telangana, Prime Minister 'vishwaguru' (Narendra Modi) has already visited the state,"

"If the chief minister is not able to stand with the people of the state in their hour of crisis, he has no right to be in the government.... Any way it is a matter of few days that this 'illegal chief minister' will have to go if the disqualification proceedings are decided constitutionally and as per law (in the Supreme Court)?" "It is an irony that he (Shinde) calls himself the son of a humble farmer. But, when the farmers in the state are in dire strait because of unseasonal rains, he is in Telangana campaigning.. The gravity of the crisis should be seen from the fact that crops spread over one lakh hectares have been destroyed due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms even while parts of the state are reeling under drought," the Sena (UBT) president said. Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uddhav said: "The Prime Minister has time to go and watch the World Cup final but has not found time to go to Manipur. He has been going to various states to campaign for his party and making huge promises and announcements there. But doesn't he have time to visit Maharashtra during a crisis?" The BJP leaders are promising darshans of Ram Lalla (in Ayodhya) if they are voted to power in poll-bound states. But, when is he going to give us his darshan? "

Lady Agniveer trainee commits suicide at INS Hamla

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



In a shocking incident, a 20-year-old female Agniveer trainee committed suicide by hanging herself in her hostel room at INS Hamla, an Indian Navy base at Malvani in north Mumbai on Monday. Identifying the deceased female Agniveer as Aparna V Nair, the Indian Navy said here on Tuesday that she was undergoing training in Logistics (F&A) at the INS Hamla at the time of incident. "Regret to inform the unfortunate incident of unnatural death of Aparna V Nair, Agniveer Logistics (F&A), age 20, at INS Hamla, Mumbai on 27 November 23. An inquiry has been ordered to investigate the incident. Indian Navy extends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family," an Indian Navy spokesperson said. Confirming that Aparna had committed suicide by hanging herself, the Malvani police said: "Our preliminary investigations have revealed that she had ended her life due to some personal problems. She used a bed sheet to commit suicide in her hostel room." The Naval officials and police stated that she had joined the Agniveer training a fortnight ago. Police said that Aparna had come to Mumbai from Kerala and was staying in a hostel along with 15 to 20 girls. "When her roommate returned to the hostel room at 10.30 am, Aparna did not open the door despite repeated knocks. Her room partners alerted other hostel inmates and authorities who broke open the door and found Aparna's body. She was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was declared dead," a senior police official said. "We have a reason to believe that she had taken the extreme step due to some personal reasons. We are waiting for her family to come to Mumbai, after which we will record their detailed statement on what might have led to her committing suicide," the police officer said.

Rajnath unveils crest of missile destroyer Imphal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh here on Tuesday unveiled the crest of Yard 12706 (Imphal), the third amongst the four Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers. This is the first capital warship to be named after a city in the North-Eastern region, the approval for which was accorded by the President on April 16, 2019. The unveiling of Imphal's crest, adorned with the Kangla Palace and 'Kangla-Sa' is a befitting tribute to the sacrifice made by the people of Manipur towards India's independence, sovereignty and security. The crest design depicts the Kangla Palace on the left and 'Kangla-Sa' on the right. The Kangla Palace is an important historical and archaeological site of Manipur, and was the



traditional seat of the past kingdom. With a dragon's head and lion's body, the 'Kangla-Sa' is a mythical being from Manipur history, and is symbolic as the guardian/protector of its people. 'Kangla-Sa' is also the state emblem of Manipur. Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, this ship is a hallmark of indigenous shipbuilding and is amongst the most technologically advanced warships in

Senior leaders from MICE to hold roundtable tomorrow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Senior leaders and CEOs from the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry will hold a roundtable here on November 30 to deliberate on strategies for developing India as a global hub for hosting large-scale international conferences and exhibitions. The industry roundtable by the Ministry of Tourism will be held at the Bharat Mandapam here. "During India's G20 Presidency, more than 200 meetings have been organised in 56 cities across the country. It has generated unprecedented interest at national and international level. It has showcased India's robust MICE infrastructure and cultural and natural heritage to the world. The Ministry of Tourism is actively working to take this momentum forward and firmly establish India as a global leader in MICE," the ministry said in a statement. At the roundtable, the ministry will elaborate on its key initiatives aimed at promoting India as a premier MICE destination. Central to these efforts is the national strategy and roadmap for the MICE Industry, formulated with the vision of establishing India as a global hub for mega conferences and exhibitions, the ministry said. "The mission of the national strategy is to create enabling conditions and institutional framework at the central, state and city level for growth of the MICE industry. The goal is to substantially increase India's



share in MICE business globally," it stated. This roundtable will bring together CEOs and senior leaders from the MICE industry to deliberate strategies to promote India as a global MICE destination. The ministry has worked out a model for setting up city-level MICE promotion bureau at important MICE destinations for facilitating and promoting the city as a MICE destination. The ministry would seek suggestions and feedback from industry leaders regarding the City MICE Bureau model which will work with the public and private sector to develop a complete MICE ecosystem at the destination and will act as one stop shop for organising events and conferences in the city, the ministry said. The Ministry of Tourism has further launched a dedicated brand 'Meet in India' for promoting India as a MICE destination. Various campaigns are being undertaken on social media platforms in partnership with the states and industry. The aim of this roundtable is to take their feedback and suggestions and to develop a shared vision and action plan for development of the MICE sector in India.

Cabinet okays extension of fast-track spl courts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet is learnt to have given its nod on Tuesday to extend by three years the continuation of the special fast-track courts that seek to deliver swift justice in cases involving sexual offences. After the passage of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act in 2018 in the aftermath of the 'Nirbhaya' gangrape case in Delhi, the Centre had decided to set up 1,023 fast-track special courts (FTSCs), including 389 to deal exclusively with cases related to violations of the

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in 31 states and union territories. A government functionary had earlier said despite the Centre's efforts, only 754 of the 1,023 courts were operational. While several states had assured the Centre that they would set up such courts, not many were eventually operationalised. Though the scheme ended on March 31 this year, the law ministry has obtained permission to ensure that the funds continue.

Curbs on vehicles lifted as...

From Page 1 Therefore, considering the disruptive nature of restrictions under Stage-III of GRAP, which impact a large number of stakeholders and the public, and acknowledging the significant improvement in the average Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi-NCR, the Sub-Committee for the operationalisation of actions under GRAP unanimously decided to roll back Stage-III of the revised GRAP in the entire NCR with immediate effect. Actions under Stages-I to Stage-II of GRAP shall, however, remain invoked and be implemented, intensified, monitored, and reviewed by all concerned agencies in NCR to ensure that the AQI levels do not further slip into the 'Severe' category," the Commission stated in its order. Under Stage-III, the CAQM prohibits several activities that generate dust and contribute to pollution. These include construction and demolition activities, a ban on BS III petrol and BS IV diesel four-wheelers, excavation, boring, welding, drilling, laying sewer lines, drinking water lines, drainage works, and electric cabling in open stretches. The Commission further urges all agencies responsible for the implementation of various actions listed under Stages - I & II of GRAP and citizens/residents to strictly implement and follow the provisions/charter of GRAP under Stage-I and Stage-II to obviate the need for the re-imposition of Stage-III of GRAP in NCR.

Telangana gear up for high stakes...

From Page 1 The counting of votes will be taken up on December 3. For the first time in Telangana, a "home voting facility" was provided to persons with disabilities and voters above 80 years. As of November 28, law enforcement agencies have seized cash, gold, liquor, and freebies, among other items, worth about Rs 737 crore in the state since the model code of conduct came into force on October 9, according to an official

release. The Election Commission has ordered all private establishments, including IT firms, to declare a holiday on November 30 to enable employees to exercise their franchise. The grand old party's tallest leader, Sonia Gandhi, who could not be part of the campaign on Tuesday, addressed the audience through a video message. She appealed to the state's electorate to bring about a change by voting her party to

power. The results for the polls will be declared on December 3. "You have given me immense respect by calling me Sonia Amma. You treated me like a mother, and I will always be grateful to you for this love and respect and will remain dedicated to you forever," she said. Telangana state was formed after bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh during the UPA government, and the Congress is seeking to take credit for its

CUSAT stampede: Youth welfare director ousted from probe team

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Following a massive public outcry, the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) announced the removal of P K Baby, director, University Youth Welfare from the team constituted to probe the factors that led to Saturday's stampede which resulted in the death of four students during musical night. The Save University Campaign Committee, a body of academicians and education professionals with long standing experience in institutes of higher learning, had approached Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan with a request to remove Baby from



the team. According to SUCC, the appointment of Baby as University Youth Welfare director itself was in violation of UGC rules which stipulate that only persons from faculties should be appointed to the post. "Baby is an employee of

non-teaching department and has no teaching experience. He was appointed with a UGC recommended pay scale. The truth is that his appointment itself is enmeshed in controversy. Baby was appointed based on the strong recommendation made by a member in Pinarayi Vijayan's council of ministers," said R S Sasikumr, SUCC President. The SUCC had asked the Governor to make the University pay cash compensation to the families of those who died in the stampede. More than a dozen students who were injured in the stampede had been admitted to various hospitals and are in critical condition battling for life.

18 per cent candidates...

From Page 1 In the case of the BJP, out of the 654 candidates fielded, 224 are facing criminal cases while 129 are facing serious criminal cases. AAP, the report said, which fielded 210 candidates in the elections, has 60 candidates with criminal cases against them, while 40 of its candidates are facing serious criminal cases. The report also said that out of the 2,117 candidates of the national parties, 656 candidates are facing criminal cases while 404 are facing serious criminal cases against themselves. It said that out of the 537 state parties' candidates, 154 are facing criminal cases while 100 are facing serious criminal charges. In the case of registered unrecognised parties, out of 2,053 candidates, affidavits of 2,051 candidates were analyzed, out of which 252 are facing criminal cases while 184 are facing serious criminal

charges against themselves. The report also said that out of the 3,347 independent candidates, affidavits of 3,346 candidates were analyzed, and 390 candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves while 271 are facing serious criminal cases. Of the total candidates of 8,054 contesting in five states, the report said 22 candidates in five states have declared cases related to murder, while 82 have declared cases related to attempted murder, and 107 candidates have declared cases related to crime against women. "Of the 107 candidates, five have declared cases related to rape," the report said. The report said 12 per cent have declared serious criminal cases while 29 per cent are crorepatris with an average asset worth Rs 3.36 crore, the report added.

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Train No.	Station (From)	Station (To)	Frequency	Earlier Notified Upto	Extended Upto
03575	Asansol	Anand Vihar (T.)	Weekly (Friday)	24.11.2023	01.12.2023
03576	Anand Vihar (T.)	Asansol	Weekly (Saturday)	25.11.2023	02.12.2023
03435	Malda Town	Anand Vihar (T.)	Weekly (Monday)	27.11.2023	04.12.2023
03436	Anand Vihar (T.)	Malda Town	Weekly (Tuesday)	28.11.2023	05.12.2023
02575	Hyderabad	Gorakhpur	Weekly (Friday)	24.11.2023	15.12.2023 to 26.01.2024
02576	Gorakhpur	Hyderabad	Weekly (Sunday)	26.11.2023	17.12.2023 to 28.01.2024

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RERA lifts ban on registration of property after meeting LG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Real Estate Regulatory Authority withdrew its September order directing sub registrars not to register properties in violation of building bylaws, hours after its top brass met Lt Governor V K Saxena on Tuesday, officials said.

Earlier in the day, Saxena met the chairman and members of Delhi RERA along with the chief secretary and divisional commissioner at Raj Niwas over the issue.

"The LG impressed upon and requested the RERA to revisit its order in view of the hardship it is causing to common people in Delhi," said a Raj Niwas official.

A fresh order issued by Delhi RERA secretary stated, "Considering the various facts on record, the Authority has decided to withdraw its order dated 11.09.2023 with immediate effect."

During the meeting with RERA chairman and members, the LG brought to their notice the



"acute problems and harassment" being faced by the residents of Delhi in a wide ranging discussion regarding the "repercussion of its order", the Raj Niwas official said.

The Delhi RERA had in its order on September 11 directed the sub registrars to refrain from registering additional dwelling units on a plot, constructed beyond the number of units permitted as per its size. It had also directed that all building plans sanctioned after September 15, 2023, must clearly indicate the total number of dwelling units that can be constructed on a plot with each

dwelling marked separately in the plan.

After the circulation of the Delhi RERA order, the sub registrars of revenue department stopped registration of properties, although senior government officers claimed no order to this effect was issued by the department.

The Raj Niwas official said that the LG had received representations and complaints from MPs, MLAs, municipal councillors, civil society organisations, as well as general public on the problems faced in registration of sale deeds for properties being sold and bought.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva who had earlier raised the issue welcomed withdrawal of the RERA order saying the LG has fulfilled the hopes of Delhiites by getting it revoked.

The September order of Delhi RERA had stated that as per the Unified Building Bylaws, 2016, and the Supreme Court order of March 14, 2008, the number of dwelling units was fixed to just three in case of plots measuring up to 50 square metres

and four in case of plot sizes above 50-250 square metres. The number of dwelling units of other plot sizes measuring up to 3,750 square metres and above were also fixed in the order.

The RERA also alleged in its order that such civic authorities as MCD, DDA, NDMC, and Delhi Cantonment Board were sanctioning building plans with additional dwelling units without kitchen, or built with pantry or store.

"The builders after sanction of building plans, convert pantries and stores into kitchens and sell units as separate dwelling units, circumventing orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court," the authority had charged in its order.

The Delhi RERA order had stated that as per the Unified Building Bylaws, 2016, and the Supreme Court order of March 14, 2008, the number of dwelling units was fixed to just three in case of plots measuring up to 50 square metre and four in case of plot sizes above 50-250 square metre.

SC seeks to know powers under which Centre wants to extend Delhi Chief Secretary's tenure

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As the Centre on Tuesday submitted that it wanted to extend the tenure of the Delhi chief secretary who is due to retire on November 30, the Supreme Court sought to know under which power it can do so and quipped if it was "stuck with only one person" and didn't have any other IAS officer for the post.

The apex court asked the Central government to inform it on Wednesday about the grounds on which it wanted to extend the tenure of Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar by six more months.

During a hearing on a Delhi government's plea, a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud suggested that Kumar should be allowed to superannuate and a fresh appointment should be made. At the same time, it also noted that the Centre held the power under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act to make the appointment and there was no stay on it.



"This man is superannuating. Let this man superannuate. You make a fresh appointment," the bench said. The court was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, that the government intends to extend the tenure of the existing person, who has been working for more than one-and-a-half year, for a limited period.

As he said even the term of a superannuated person can be extended if the government so wishes, the CJI said, "Are you stuck with only one person?" "You want to make the appointment, make it. Don't you have any IAS officer who can be made chief secretary of Delhi? Are you so stuck on one IAS

officer?," the bench also comprising justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said.

The law officer responded, "I am not stuck with only one person" but there were some administrative reasons. The top court asked the Centre to show the power under which it can extend the tenure of the chief secretary.

"Show us the power to extend. And show us what is the ground on which you want to extend. Otherwise, you can appoint whoever you want to, take instructions. "We are not holding you in any direction. You select any IAS officer of your choice who will come here and hold the position of chief secretary," said the bench, adding it will take up the matter on Wednesday.

The appointment of the chief secretary is the latest bone of contention between Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government and Lieutenant Governor (LG) V K Saxena who have been involved in a series of run-ins over various issues.

The bench was hearing a plea

of the Delhi government against any move by the Centre to appoint, without any consultation with it, the new chief secretary or extend the tenure of the current top civil servant Naresh Kumar.

The Delhi government has questioned how the Centre could proceed with the appointment of the chief secretary without any consultation with it while the new law is under challenge. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, representing the Delhi government, on Tuesday argued there was an absolute breach of communication, trust and faith between this chief secretary and the administration.

He said he was not asking to appoint a person of his choice but the Centre can choose from the senior most five IAS officers or let the LG and CM sit together and decide. On being asked by the bench as to for how long the Centre proposed to extend the tenure of the current chief secretary, Mehta said the decision appeared to be for six months, subject to the court's order.

Saxena flags off 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lt Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday flagged off "Viksit Bharat Sankalp yatra" here to raise awareness through outreach activities to achieve saturation of various welfare programs launched by the Government of India.

On the occasion, Saxena also administered Viksit Bharat Sankalp and flagged off IEC vans to disseminate information about the welfare schemes.

He said the yatra is an important and meaningful effort



Ranjan Dimri

towards the inclusive development of India.

At the national level, the Yatra was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

November 15 from Khunti in Jharkhand on the occasion of the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, marking the birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda.

Congress on talent hunt to induct young, dynamic faces

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress is on a talent hunt to induct young and dynamic faces to articulate, in contemporary idiom, the party's ideological and political message, in an effort to attract youth to the party. The move comes after the Delhi Congress failed to win seats in Delhi assembly for the three consecutive assembly polls here. The Congress leadership is confident that its policies have been received well on the ground and need to be communicated more effectively to reach out to the largest audience.



According to Delhi Congress president Arvind Singh Lovely, the party has opened its doors to talented young people keen to make a career in politics through its innovative Talent

Hunt programme, which will give an opportunity to people who have shied away from politics to be associated with the Congress party, and also do social service.

Man shot dead by son's father-in-law at wedding

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

A 55-year-old man was shot dead at a wedding allegedly by his son's father-in-law in Noida. According to Noida Police, an altercation broke out between them before the shootout on Monday night.

Ashok Yadav, a resident of Hoshiarpur in Noida Sector 51, had gone for a wedding at Gaur Mulberry Farmhouse in Bisrakh area where he was shot dead by Shekhar Yadav from Ghaziabad.

Ashok Yadav's son was married to Shekhar Yadav's daughter but the couple had a troubled marriage because of which the relationship between the two families had

soured, the police said.

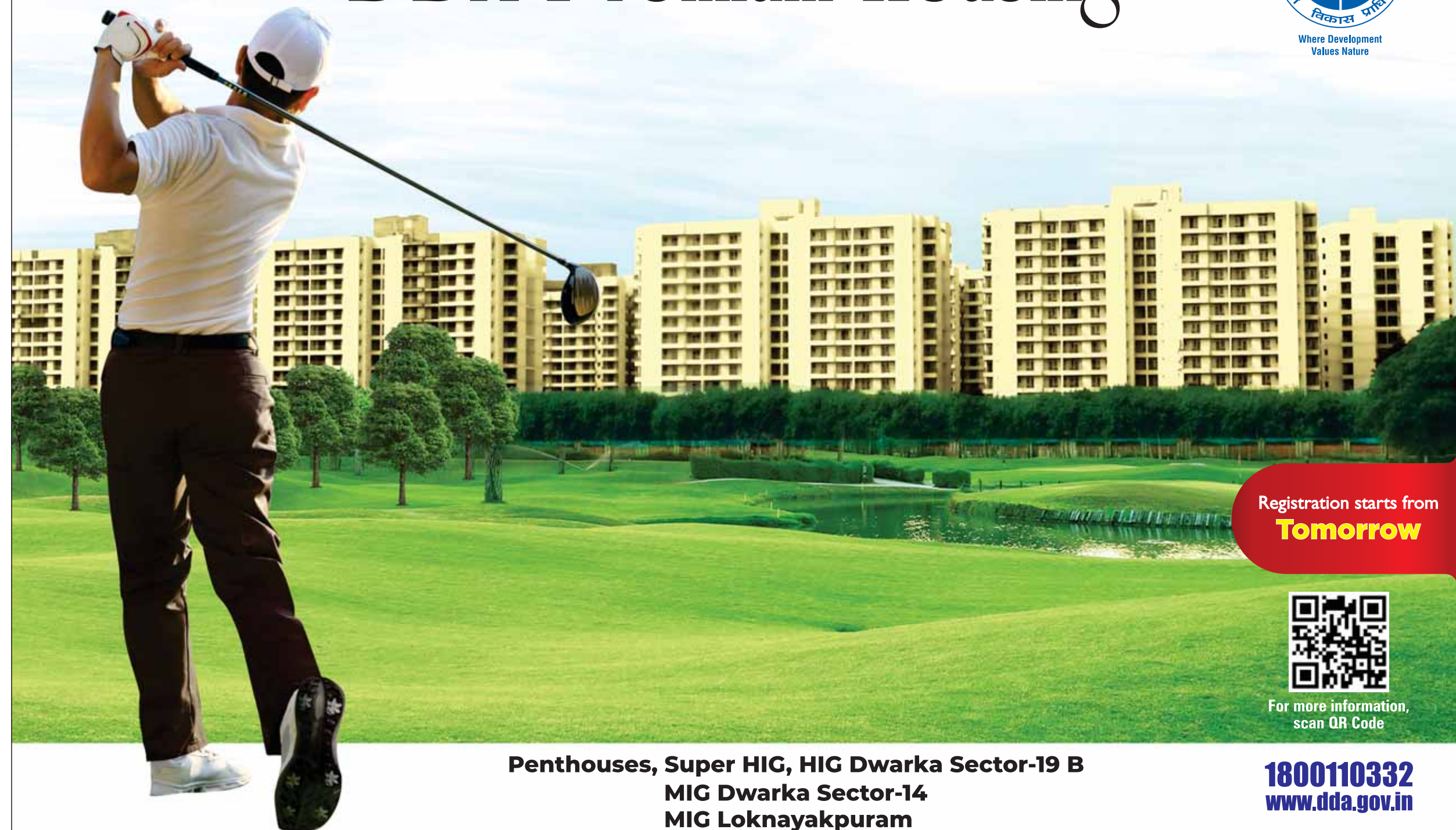
"On Monday night, the local police received an information of a shootout following an altercation at the wedding event. The family members of the victim rushed him to a private Yatharth Hospital nearby but he was declared dead by doctors."

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Noida) Suniti said, "From the information gathered so far it has come to light that Ashok Yadav and Shekhar Yadav were related with their children married to each other. However the married couple was in the process of divorce which led to conflict between the two sides," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

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Modi to distribute 51,000 job letters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted employees of different government departments on November 30 via video-conferencing and also address them, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said on Tuesday.

The programme is being held at 37 locations across the country as part of the 'Rozgar Mela', and recruitment is taking place in various central government departments as well as state governments and UTs supporting this initiative, the PMO said.

The departments they will join are revenue, home affairs, higher education, school education and literacy, financial services, defence, health and family welfare, and labour and employment among others.

"Rozgar Mela is a step towards fulfilment of the commitment



of the prime minister to accord highest priority to employment generation.

It is expected to act as a catalyst in further employment generation and provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in national development," the statement said.

The new appointees with their innovative ideas and role-related competencies will be contributing in the task of

strengthening industrial, economic and social development of the nation, helping realise Modi's vision of developed India, it added.

The new appointees are also getting an opportunity to train themselves through 'Karmayogi Prarambh', an online module on the iGOT Karmayogi portal where more than 800 e-learning courses have been made available for 'anywhere any device' learning format, it said.

'Cost of justice, use of English in higher judiciary obstacles to equal access to justice'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said here the "cost" and the use of English language in the higher judiciary are among the hindrances in the way of equal access to justice, and emphasised on their removal.

Addressing a conference here, she emphasised on the need to launch an awareness campaign among people, living in rural areas and those from socially disadvantaged groups, to help them make them conscious of their rights and get legal assistance.

Murmu said, equality is not only the foundation of justice, but a necessary condition of it too. "It has been long since the world proclaimed that all human beings are equal, but we need to ask ourselves if we all have equal access to justice," she said. In practice, it means some people are often unable to seek redressal of their grievances due to several factors, the president said.



"Our principal task is to remove those obstacles. The chief obstacle, of course, is often the cost of justice," Murmu said, addressing the valedictory session of the first regional conference on 'Ensuring Access to Quality Legal Aid for the Vulnerable: Challenges and Opportunities in the Global South' here.

She said access to justice for all has been a theme close to her heart and mentioned several steps taken to help economi-

cally disadvantaged sections of society to approach legal institutions for remedial action. Steps taken by the National Legal Services Authority, that is, NALSA, have also played a key role in expanding legal aid, the president said.

"The aim, on the whole, has been to advance 'ease of justice'. But I feel that there is a need to launch an awareness campaign among people not only to make them conscious of their rights, but also to help them get legal assistance, if

such a need arises," Murmu said.

Such an awareness campaign must focus on rural areas and socially disadvantaged groups to dispel the impression that justice is the advantage of the strong, the president said.

There are many more hindrances in the way of equal access to justice, she said. In India, for example, the language of the higher judiciary is English, which makes it difficult for a large section of society to understand the judicial processes, Murmu said.

"However, the Supreme Court of India has started publishing verdicts in various regional languages on its website. Legal aid institutions also help in bridging the language divide," she noted.

Murmu said technology holds great promise in making access to legal aid more democratic. "It has reduced distances and made justice dispensation easier in many cases... An innovative attitude in integration of technology in the justice deliv-

ery system will make it more inclusive as well as more efficient," the president said.

Murmu said the regional conference focuses on the Global South. "Due to a variety of historical forces, this group of countries still continues to battle poverty. The task before us is to raise the standards of living for all. Gandhiji used to call it 'sarvodaya', the welfare of all. Access to justice is, naturally, a very important tool to achieve that goal," she said.

The Global South, then, faces challenges which are quite similar in nature yet they are different from the rest of the world, Murmu said, adding that "we can respond to these challenges by joining hands and by sharing our best practices."

"I believe that making legal aid accessible to people in need is the cornerstone of any modern state. It plays a crucial role in shaping a social order which is equitable, just and worthy of trust," Murmu said.

DAC meet to discuss ₹1.4 Lakh cr Defence acquisition proposals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Mega proposals worth over ₹1.4 lakh crore are likely to be discussed on Thursday here during the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The deals include a Rs 40,000 crore proposal for building the second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) and a nod for another 97 Tejas light combat aircraft worth over Rs 55,000 crores and 156 Prachand helicopters (90 for Army and 66 for Navy), sources said here on Tuesday.

The DAC is the apex body to clear the acquisition proposals forwarded by the three Services. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) gives the final clearance for the deals.

As regards the second aircraft carrier, sources said the government is set to positively consider the Indian Navy's proposal. The Defence Procurement Board (DPB), a key body of the defence min-



istry, has accorded in-principle approval to the ambitious proposal signalling the government's readiness to go for the second indigenous aircraft carrier, to be known as IAC II.

The DAC is also likely to consider the Indian Air Force's proposal for procurement of an additional batch of 97 Tejas Mark-1A aircraft at a cost of Rs 55,000 crores, sources said.

The Navy has been making a strong push for having the IAC-II with a displacement of 45,000 tonnes which is estimated to cost close to Rs 40,000 crore with the envisaged

specifications. India's first indigenous-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant (IAC I) was commissioned in September by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Built at a cost of around Rs 23,000 crore, INS Vikrant has a sophisticated air defence network and anti-ship missile system. It has the capacity to hold 30 fighter jets and helicopters. At the commissioning ceremony of the vessel, Modi called it a "floating city" and that it is a reflection of India becoming self-reliant in defence.

Centre may introduce legal safeguards for health workers: Panel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A parliamentary standing committee has said the Centre may consider introducing appropriate legal safeguards for healthcare workers, who at times face violence from relatives or attendants of patients.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs headed by BJP member Brij Lal, which examined the proposed three criminal laws, discussed a memorandum submitted by various medical associations requesting it to introduce provisions under Clause 115 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) to penalise acts of violence against healthcare service personnel.

The committee, in its report, said it was submitted before the panel that unlike in any other professions, healthcare professionals are vulnerable to "violent attacks" by relatives of patients, in cases where patients die during treatment. Such violent attacks against healthcare personnel are prevalent throughout the country and there is a need to provide some legal safeguards for the benefit of healthcare workers, the medical associations told the committee.

In its response, the Union Home Ministry said the general panel provisions are applicable to all and no distinction is made in the penal laws for any class of person. Everyone is equal in the eyes of law, the home ministry stressed.

The state is duty bound to protect life all its citizens, including doctors and professionals



like media persons, advocate, bankers, chartered accountants, etc. Making a special provision for doctors and other health care professionals may give rise to similar demands from other professionals like media persons, advocates, bankers, chartered accountants, the home ministry observed.

The home ministry also informed the committee that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has a proposal to introduce a 'Medical Professionals Act' to provide safeguards to healthcare workers against violent attacks, and that the home ministry would take an update from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on the same.

"After considering the concerns of the healthcare personnel, the committee opines that the government may consider introducing appropriate legal safeguards for healthcare workers," the committee noted. The Clause 115 of the BNS says: Whoever voluntarily causes hurt, if the hurt which he intends to cause or knows himself to be likely to cause is grievous hurt, and if the hurt which he causes is grievous hurt, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

2nd edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam from Dec 17

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Ministry on Tuesday said the second edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam will be held from December 17-30. The sangamam aims at rediscovering, reaffirming and celebrating the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi two of the country's most important and ancient seats of learning. The first edition was a month-long event organised last year.

"In Phase-2 of KTS 2.0 which would have a crisper format with emphasis on awareness generation and outreach, people-to-people connect and cultural involvement, he said. "The focus would be on increased engagement and interaction with local counterparts (weavers, artisans, artists, entrepreneurs, writers etc) to get insights into best practices, enhance learning and cross pollination of ideas," the official said.

Stalls exhibiting art and culture, handlooms, handicrafts, cuisine, and other special products of Tamil Nadu and Kashi will be set up, the official said. "Cultural programmes blending the cultures of Tamil Nadu and Kashi will be organized at Namoo Ghat in Varanasi," he said. Seminars, discussions, lectures, on various facets of knowledge like literature, ancient texts, philosophy, spirituality, music, dance, drama, yoga, ayurveda, handlooms, handicrafts as well as



domains of work." KTS 2.0 would have a crisper format with emphasis on awareness generation and outreach, people-to-people connect and cultural involvement, he said. "The focus would be on increased engagement and interaction with local counterparts (weavers, artisans, artists, entrepreneurs, writers etc) to get insights into best practices, enhance learning and cross pollination of ideas," the official said.

To capitalise upon learnings from the first edition and given their reputation for research, IIT Madras will serve as the implementing agency in Tamil Nadu and the Banaras Hindu University in Uttar Pradesh. "IIT Madras has called for applications on the KTS portal launched today, from people of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry who wish to participate in the programme. The selection of delegates will be done by a selection committee constituted for the purpose," the official said.

the modern innovations, trade exchanges, edutech and other gen next technology will be highlights of the event, the official said.

"Apart from experts and scholars, local practical practitioners from Tamil Nadu and Varanasi will also participate in these exchanges so that a body of practical knowledge and innovations can emerge from the mutual learning in different fields," he said.

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FORM NO. NCLT_3A Advertisement detailing petition [see rule 35] Company Petition No. CP-216 (ND) of 2022 Ms. Vibha Prasad vs. FSC Trade LLP & Ors.

Notice of Petition
A petition under Section 42 of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, for removal of Mr. Satish Chandra Pandey, a designated partner was presented by Ms. Vibha Prasad another designated partner on the 05/12/2022, and the said petition is fixed for hearing before the Hon'ble bench of National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi on 15/01/2023. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition should send to the petitioner's advocate, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, so as to reach the petitioner's advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the petition. Where he seeks to oppose the petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.
Dated: 28/11/2023 Sd/-
Amar Kumar
(Advocate for petitioner) Address: B-1/10, LGF, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110016

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Shaal Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110007

PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that BHARAT BHUSHAN / SONIA DUTTA (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBGUR0002889490 located at FLAT NO B1 102, 1ST FLOOR, AAGAN TOWER B1, SEC 88A AND 89 A, GURGAON. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated November 22, 2022, informing that ALTON BUILDTECH INDIA PVT. LTD. has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: November 29, 2023 For ICICI Bank Limited
Place: Delhi/NCR Sd-

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Naeem Ahmad/ Mohd Anas A/c No. LBYGR00005941515 Aidarniyar 1 Kairana Near Ikrampur Wale Masjid Shamli Uttar Pradesh (Shamli- 247774)	House North Facing Nagar Palika 673/3 Ward No. 2, Part of Khasra No. 709, A Residential Situated At Mohalla New Abadi Pansariyan Village Shamli Pargana Tehsil and District Shamli Uttar Pradesh- 247774	28/10/2023 Rs. 16,59,838/-	03-09-2023

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

Date : November 29, 2023 Authorized Officer
Place : Delhi ICICI Bank Limited

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice U/s. 13(2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) who have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of loans facility obtained by them from secured creditor and loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them on their last known addresses, however, it has returned un-served and hence, they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Dhan Bahadur, Sharda Basnet, House No. 25, Ground Floor, Chirag Delhi 110017, Loan No. 7100001192, A/c:- QZRWI00005034679	Plot No. 39 Fourth Floor Sector 34, Pocket 1, Block B15 Rohini Delhi- 110085	09/10/2023 Rs. 13,60,250/-	09-08-2021

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

Date : November 29, 2023 Authorized Officer
Place : Delhi/NCR ICICI Bank Limited

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

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Notice U/s. 13(2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) who have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of loans facility obtained by them from secured creditor and loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them on their last known addresses, however, it has returned un-served and hence, they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Dhan Bahadur, Sharda Basnet, House No. 25, Ground Floor, Chirag Delhi 110017, Loan No. 7100001192, A/c:- QZRWI00005034679	Plot No. 39 Fourth Floor Sector 34, Pocket 1, Block B15 Rohini Delhi- 110085	09/10/2023 Rs. 13,60,250/-	09-08-2021

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

Date : November 29, 2023 Authorized Officer
Place : Delhi/NCR ICICI Bank Limited

Bharat Biotech inks MoU with University of Sydney on advancing vaccine research

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Biotech and the University of Sydney Infectious Diseases Institute on Tuesday announced a memorandum of understanding between them to advance vaccine research initiatives, strengthen academic-industry partnerships and augment global efforts to combat infectious diseases.

The agreement aims to build strong sectoral and cross-organisational collaborations to design novel methodologies to tackle future epidemics and infectious diseases, Bharat Biotech said in a statement. It also aims at leveraging academia-industry strengths to advance the science of vaccines and biotherapeutics, it added.

Dr Krishna Ella, the executive chairman at Bharat Biotech, said, "This agreement reflects our ethos to facilitate collaborative research, foster innovation, and further advance the science vaccine technology. "Mutually, we are excited about the new opportunities to strengthen our shared vision,

leverage the prowess of education, and research capabilities to help build a healthier universe and improve people's lives by developing safer vaccine platforms. Most importantly, build the talent of young scientists with a passion to innovate," he said.

Professor Jamie Triccas, the deputy director at Sydney ID on a global scale to drive innovation and highlight our expertise in the development of new vaccines and biotherapeutics is paramount."

"The reputational and societal impacts of developing novel vaccines to eradicate human and animal diseases that are safe, affordable, and effective cannot be overstated. Together with Bharat Biotech International Limited, we aim to make a lasting impact on global health," he said.

Vaccines are the most effective and cost-effective way to protect billions of people worldwide, with vaccine development potentially transforming health by removing the burden of life-threatening infectious diseases from the population, Triccas said.

Defence Ministry signs contract with BHEL for procurement of gun mounts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



The Ministry of Defence on Tuesday here signed a contract with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Haridwar for procurement of 16 Upgraded Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM) along with associated equipment for Indian Navy under Buy (Indian) category at a total cost of Rs 2956.89 crore.

Giving details, defence ministry officials said the upgraded SRGM, which will be manufactured by BHEL at its Haridwar plant, is a medium caliber anti-missile/anti aircraft point defence weapon system which provides a sustained rate of fire and high accuracy. The weapon system is

capable of multiple engagements in multi-threat scenarios and has a proven record of very good performance against missiles and highly maneuverable fast attack crafts.

Upgraded SRGMs will be installed onboard Indian Navy's in-service and newly built ships by Mazagaon Dock and Shipbuilders Ltd., Mumbai, and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata. The project will generate an employment of two and half lakh mandays over a period of five years and encourage active participation of various Indian industries including MSME, thus significantly contributing to the Government's efforts to achieve 'Atmanirbharta' in defence.

Bid to increase voter turnout in Lok Sabha elections

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Women activists of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are playing a key role to induct new voters in the Sangam city. Under the Voter Maha Chetna Abhiyan, women activists of BJP held camps at 260 shakti kendra and managed to enrol 10,889 new voters with the BLO concerned in first and second phases.

BJP spokesman Rajesh Kesarwani told mediapersons, "Apart from holding special camps at shakti kendra, party workers are also knocking doors of voters to get them enrolled". He, however, said, "As many as 10,889 new voters have filled the form 6 to become new voters". He also claimed that 'toli' (groups) of BJP workers - both men and women - are covering wards to find out new voters and remove faulty names from voters list

respectively.

The BJP leaders said party's voter awareness campaign, organised between October 30 and November 5, had helped party to add over 28,000 new voters at 1,205 booth of the Mahanagar pocket of the district. Leaders, however, claimed party will take up new voter enrolment drive till December 3.

Voter awareness campaign was launched in over 4,100 booths across the district including 1,205 booths of the city. The first phase of voters awareness campaign had undoubtedly helped party new age voters particularly those who have completed 18 years of age.

This campaign was launched to ensure no one was deprived of voting rights. For that BJP workers are taking every step to increase the voter turnout in the LS elec-

tions to be held next year. We are also initiating steps to remove the names of those who have migrated or died or are fake voters", said a leader.

FAREWELL: Advocate General (AG) of Uttar Pradesh, Ajay Kumar Misra accorded farewell to former Chief Justice (CJ) of Allahabad High Court Pritinker Diwaker at his official residence. AG presented flowers to the former chief justice and lauded the exemplary works done by him during his tenure as CJ.

The AG said during Justice Diwaker's tenure as CJ several judicial reforms were introduced and the latest technology was also introduced to provide speedy justice to the litigants. The AG on behalf of all the state law officers expressed best wishes to ex-chief justice Pritinker Diwaker for his post retirement phase.

Overwhelmed by the ges-

ture, love and affection of the AG, who directly reached official residence of the CJ from the airport, the former CJ appreciated the co-operation and assistance given to him on behalf of the state law officers headed by the AG during this entire tenure as judge and thereafter as CJ.

INITIATIVE: A city-based social activist Abhilash Kesarwani has taken an initiative to set up small houses for pets here. Abhilash is setting up shelter house for stray domestic pets at Mutthiganj area and later will take it to other pockets of the city.

Abhilash says, "The motive behind setting up small house for stray animals is to provide them shelter during winter season. Water, meals will also be available at shelter places. There are plans to set up small 'ashiyana' (home) for animals in all 100 wards of the city."

Youth can fulfil whatever dreams they see in any situation: Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Transport Minister Daya Shankar Singh has said that youth can fulfil whatever dreams they see in any situation and added that they should see dreams but not in sleep and rather they should see such dreams which do not let them sleep.

He was on Monday addressing the 15th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme being organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Varanasi, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India at Jai Public School, Karauta Alaudindpur here in which tribal youth from eight districts of four states are participating.

Giving an example regarding this, the Minister said that one was Lord Birsu Munda who paved the way to drive away the British from India by taking on the immense power of the British, while the other was Swami Vivekananda who identified the spiritual strength



UP Minister Daya Shankar Singh honouring youths participating in Adivasi Youth Programme.

of India. India is a country of diversity. When the youths, who came from different districts of the country to take part in this programme, go to their area, they must mention the culture and lifestyle of this place, the Minister added.

He said that the youth makes a way even in times of scarcity and gave the example of the lead actress of the film

Mayuri who broke the record by dancing with wooden feet. He called upon the youth to make a path to make India a developed country when the country celebrates 100 years of independence in 2047 as per the vision of the Prime Minister, he added.

The participating youths also visited the head office of 95 Battalion of CRPF in Pahadia

where the Second Command Nitennda Nath welcomed them and also had an interaction with them. The deputy director of Nehru Yuva Kendra Kapil Dev threw lights on the activities of the camp. The Director of CRPF Yogesh Mohan Dixit reached camp from Delhi and encouraged the youths. Many were present on the occasion.

NCR generates 78.8 lakh units of energy using solar power

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The North Central Railway (NCR) generated 78.8 lakh units of energy using solar power in first seven months of the financial year 2022-23 with net revenue saving of Rs 3.27 crore achieved in six months through the use of solar energy. This has led to a reduction of 6,622 metric tonnes of carbon emissions.

In line with the national initiative on solar mission, the NCR has attached top priority to solar energy generation under the leadership of GM Satish Kumar. Under the guidance of PCEE AK Agrawal and due to excellent upkeep, close monitoring of operations of solar power plant and numerous innovative steps taken under Solar Mission-2022-23 by CEE (EEM) KM Singh, along with his team, the NCR generated 125 lakh units of electricity using solar power and a net revenue saving of Rs 5.2 crore in FY 2022-23.

Continuing the momentum this FY 2023-24 from April to October too, 78.8 lakh units of electricity has been generated by NCR in the first seven months of economy. Not



only it is a big leap towards a larger goal of environment protection as solar energy is a greener source of energy it has led to substantial savings in revenue too. Net revenue saving of Rs 3.27 crore has thereby recorded through the usage of solar power.

NCR has a total installed capacity of 11.13 MWp. While 185 kWp has been installed by the Railway, remaining 10949 kWp capacities has been installed by two major Solar Power Developers (SPD) Azure and ReNew on a PPP mode.

Among the major places where roof top solar plants have

been installed are GM and DRM office buildings, station buildings and workshops, besides training schools.

Besides 6,622 metric tonnes of reduction in carbon emissions has been achieved by NCR using solar power in these seven months.

Productivity of solar plants is measured in terms of Capacity Utilisation Factor (CUF). The NCR solar panels have recorded a CUF of 13.8 per cent during April-Oct 2023.

In order to promote solar energy, utmost importance is being given to maintenance of solar plants. Some of the steps

taken are: Monitoring of solar energy generation is being done for each plant, inverter wise. Daily monitoring, instead of monthly of energy and CUF per cent of plants is being done. Defective/ decommissioned plants due to roof repairs, inverters, cables, etc have been put right.

Solar diary introduced to SSEs for systematic documentation and focussed monitoring of energy and other important data in a structured manner.

GM Satish Kumar congratulated the team of officers and staff for sustaining the momentum in this field and called for adopting a focussed approach for augmenting the share of solar energy in its total non-traction electrical energy consumption.

1.34 MWp of roof top solar plants will be installed by NCR in the current financial year. Prayagraj division will be installing 0.75 MWp of solar plants while Jhansi and Agra divisions will add 0.4 and 0.19 MWp to the existing capacity respectively. These roof top solar plants are expected to be commissioned at various locations like railway stations, office/service buildings by December this year.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) Banaras Hindu University (BHU) organised an induction programme for the students of Master of Personnel Management and Industrial Relations (MPMIR) course. Speaking as the chief guest the Director, Institute of Management Studies, BHU Prof SK Dubey shared his vast experience with the newly admitted students of the MPMIR course and stressed grooming corporate ready personality for management students. Apart from this he shared various tips with students regarding communications skills, analytical skills, problem solving skills, etc. so that students can make themselves valuable for the organisations whom they dream to work with. The second resource person of the day Dr Pravel Singh Rana from the Travel and Tourism Unit, Faculty of Arts, BHU elaborated the history of Varanasi and BHU and shared different aspects of culture, values, and life in Varanasi and BHU as well. Prof Rakesh Kumar Mishra former Head, Department of Humanistic Studies, IIT (BHU) talked about the role of Indian Ethos and Values in developing a complete personality and explained how self can be development and managed by following India traditions and culture also with the combination of modern life development. Prof Yogesh Kumar Arya, Department of Psychology, BHU delivered welcome address and Prof Sandeep Kumar, Chairman, Training and Placement proposed vote of thanks.

ELECTED: Dr TP Chaturvedi, Senior Professor and former Dean of Faculty of Dental Sciences, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has unanimously been elected as president elect of Indian Dental Association (IDA), UP State Branch. The Indian Dental Association (IDA), UP State branch organised a three days state dental conference at Prayagraj. During the conference, the annual general body meeting of dental surgeons of IDA UP state was also held in

case from all angles." Sources said Hashmi was very upset with the behaviour of conductor Harishkesh Vishwakarma (30), as he often used to pass 'derogatory remark' on him and his religion.

On Friday morning when he was going to his college Hashmi attacked Vishwakarma. Later, he released a video in which he had attacked the conductor for "insulting Islam". He also uttered religiously charged sentences. He was also seen brandishing the weapon. He was arrested on Friday evening. When cops took him to the place where he had hidden the weapon he tried to attack the cops. In retaliation, police shot him in his leg. He is currently undergoing treatment at the district hospital. Following his arrest, law enforcement agencies, including ATS (anti-terrorist squad) and IB (Intelligence Bureau), interrogated him and also carried out an extensive search at his house and sent his mobile and laptop for forensic examination. Cops are also checking his social media status which was changed just a day before the attack.

Work being done in Hindi by offices reviewed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

An inspection meeting was organised for the progress and dissemination of Hindi language by the Parliamentary Official Language Committee (POLC) under the chairmanship of Prof Rita Bahuguna Joshi, convener of the Second Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee at GM's office, NCR.

The work being done in the official language Hindi by the offices was observed and thoroughly reviewed by the POLC in the presence of senior officials of the ministry and department concerned. In the meeting, GM NCR Satish Kumar presented before the committee a detailed description of the work being done by the GM's office in official language Hindi and expressed his commitment to ensure more use of Hindi in government works.

The GM informed the committee that continuous growth and progress has been ensured in the use and spread of the official language Hindi in the entire regional railway as well as in all the works of the GM's office. He said that station operating rules and gate operating rules etc related to the safety of passengers have been ensured in 100 per cent Hindi-English bilingual form. All work instructions, orders, circulars etc. have been made available to station masters and security related staff in both Hindi and English languages. All information boards, electronic display boards etc. related to passengers have been ensured to be in both Hindi and English languages.



The Parliamentary Official Language Committee appreciated the widespread use of Hindi in railway offices and instructions were given to further increase the use of the official language Hindi in various items. The GM assured the committee that whatever instructions have been given by the Committee their compliance will be ensured.

Similarly, the committee reviewed the work being done by the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM)'s office, Prayagraj, in the official language Hindi. During the inspection meeting, DRM Himanshu Badori presented the details of the work being done by the DRM's office and assured to increase the use of official language Hindi as per the instructions of the committee.

Committee convener and MP Prof Rita Bahuguna Joshi, MP Sushil Kumar Gupta and MP Keshari Devi Patel and senior officers of the Committee Secretariat and Chief Official Language Officer and Principal Chief Security Officer Manish Kumar Gupta, Chief Commercial Manager/Passenger Services Anumani Tripathi, Secretary to

GM Ajay Singh, Additional Divisional Railway Manager /Infra Naveen Prakash, Deputy Chief Official Language Officer Shailendra Kumar Singh, Executive Director/ Establishment of Railway Board Sudhir Kumar, all officials associated with the official language of the head office and DRM's office, including Barun Kumar, were present.

ATTACK CASE: The B-Tech student arrested for attacking a bus conductor recently has told investigators that his only intention was to threaten him for the latter's 'religious slur'. However, anger took over and he stabbed him with a chopper.

Lareb Hashmi (20) also told investigators that he had been following the preaching of many foreign-based religious scholars (Bareilvi sect) since long on the internet.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank 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.	Neetu Gupta/ Ashu Gupta/ Atin Kumar/ LBDEL00002371563	Flat No.55 Lig, 3rd Floor, Sector G2 Pocket 2, Block F-3, Narela, Delhi- 110040/ November 22, 2023	May 24, 2023 Rs. 9,42,122/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Mukesh Gupta/ Shobha Gupta/ LBDEL00005092862/ LBDEL00004432373	Flat No.373, Ground Floor Jahangir Puri, Sanjay Enclave Delhi- 110033/ November 22, 2023	July 18, 2023 Rs. 27,04,307/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Krishna Kumar Tiwari/ Tarkeshwar Tiwari/ LBDEL00002378998	LIG Flat No.49, Second Floor, Block C5, Pocket- 3 Sector- 34, Rohini Delhi- 110085/ November 22, 2023	July 19, 2023 Rs. 9,58,333/-	Delhi/ NCR & Buxar

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 29, 2023
Place: Delhi/NCR
Authorized Officer: ICICI Bank Limited

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank 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 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 Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Taposh Kumar Dass/ Sucheta Dass/ LBGUR00003784625	Flat No. 1504, 15th Floor, EcoVillage G1 Bldg, Uttar Pradesh Noida/ November 22, 2023	June 23, 2021 Rs. 64,30,055/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Sushil Kumar Pandey/ Seema Pandey/ LBDEL00004251374	Flat No. 0704, Floor 7, Block- G5, Plot No. 8, Sector 1, Eco Village-1, Tower- G5 Greater Noida/ November 22, 2023	March 25, 2021 Rs. 75,03,336/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Shalini Chaudhry/ Rahul Chaudhry/ LBGUR00002129173	Flat No.6122, 12th Floor, Type A, Tower 6, ATS Triumph, Sector 104 Gurgaon/ November 23, 2023	June 19, 2021 Rs. 2,20,56,150/-	Delhi/ NCR

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 29, 2023
Place: Delhi/NCR
Authorized Officer: ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanhalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore- 560068

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Narendran, Latha Narendran & Primeside Retail Pvt Ltd/ Block No 30 House No 9 Floor No 4 19th Avenue Ashok Nagar, Kodambakkam Village, T S No 38, Chennai- 600083/ LBCHE00002926303 & LBCHE00003761713	Schedule A (Total Extent) All That Piece And Parcel Of Land Together With Building (Since Demolished) Bearing Corporation Door No.16 (Old No.17), 19th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai 600083, Situated In The Sanctioned Plan Of Ashok Nagar, Bearing Plot No. A-11. Comprised In T.S.No.38, Block No.30, Kodambakkam Village, Chennai Mambalam Guindy Taluk, Measuring All That Piece And Parcel Of Land Together With Building (Since Demolished) Bearing Corporation North To South On The Eastern And Western Sides 63 Feet And 6 Inches, East To West On The Northern And Southern Sides 126 Feet And 6 Inches, Admeasuring In Extent 3 Grounds And 633 Sq.ft Or Thereabouts Bounded On The North By: Plot No.A-10; East By: 70 Feet Wide Road; South By: Plot No.A-12; And On The West By: Plot No.A-22. Situated Within The Registration District Of Chennai Central And Then Registration Sub District Of Kodambakkam And Present Registration Sub District Of Ashok Nagar, Schedule B (Entitlement Of Mr.S. Sankaran In Schedule A Land) An Undivided 6173sq.ft. Share, Right, Title And Interest, In Land In Schedule-A Property Hereinabove Mentioned Schedule C (Undivided Share In Land To Be Conveyed To The Allottee) 1365/12410 Equivalent To 10.9992% (883.6 Sq.ft) Undivided Share In Schedule A Land Now Known As Ashok Kedar Agreed To Be Purchased By The Allottee Entirely From And Out Of The Share Allotted To Mr.S.Sankaran Being The Schedule B Portion Mentioned Above Through The Promoter, Schedule- D Description Of The Flat Flat No.9 In The Fourth Floor In The Residential Complex Known As "Ashok Kedar" Having A Sale Area Of 1365 Sq.ft, Comprising Of The Plinth Area Of The Said Flat, A Proportionate Undivided Share In The Lift Core, Lobby, Staircase, Landing Areas All Forming Part Of The Sanctioned FSI And Totalling To 1323 Sq.ft. And A Proportionate Undivided Share In Staircase Overhead Room And Lift Machine Room As Per Sanctioned Plan Of 42 Sq.ft. Along With A Private Terrace Area Of 160 Sq.ft Delineated And Marked Red In The Plan In Annexure-1. Together With The Earmarked Car Park Identified As No.9 (F.No.9) Delineated And Marked Red In The Ground Floor Plan In Annexure-1A, With The Specification Features As Detailed In Annexure- 2.	30/10/2023 Rs. 59,33,460/-	28/02/ 2019

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

Date: November 29, 2023
Place: Delhi
Authorized Officer: ICICI Bank Limited



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Give peace a chance!

The extended cease-fire in Gaza is a fine opportunity to reach stability in the region

The cease-fire has come as a godsend to the average Palestinian who finally got respite from flying mortar shells and some peace to get ration and medicines, which are luxuries in the conflict zone. The two-day extension of the cease-fire offers them a glimmer of hope and to international community the time to work backchannels for prolonged peace. However, as the Hamas and Israel have tentatively agreed to a break from hostilities, questions linger about the long-term prospects for stability. Will these additional two days lead to meaningful negotiations and a lasting peace, or is it merely a temporary pause before the bloody conflict resumes? The international community plays a crucial role in determining the trajectory of events and fostering an environment conducive to sustainable peace. The decision to extend the cease-fire by two days suggests a willingness on the part of both Hamas and Israel to explore avenues other than bombs, bullets and bloodshed. This respite provides an opportunity for de-escalation and opens a window for negotiations. However, the history of conflicts in the region raises scepticism about the durability of such agreements. The cease-fire extension allows for humanitarian efforts to take place, facilitating the delivery of essential supplies and medical assistance to those affected by the violence. Additionally, the pause in hostilities can pave the way for diplomatic initiatives, fostering an environment where both parties can address underlying issues through dialogue.

One of the bigger, though not direct, consequences of the Gaza conflict is the involvement of super powers in the fray. Now that the US and the West are with Israel, China and Russia are throwing their weight behind the Hamas. This could have ominous consequences for the world; it is, therefore, in the interest of the world and not just of the people of Israel and Palestine that this conflict is made to peter out, at least for the time being. Key stakeholders, including the United Nations, regional powers and other influential nations, should actively encourage both parties to engage in meaningful negotiations, addressing the core issues that fuel the conflict. The international community should work collaboratively to ensure the delivery of aid, medical assistance and reconstruction support to alleviate the suffering of those caught in the crossfire. To prevent a return to square one after the ceasefire extension, sustained diplomatic efforts are required. The extension of the Gaza ceasefire provides a fleeting moment of hope for peace, but the international community must remain vigilant in guiding the path forward. By actively supporting diplomatic initiatives, addressing humanitarian needs and encouraging sustained dialogue, the world community can play a crucial role in ushering in lasting stability in the region. The alternative — resuming hostilities — would only perpetuate the cycle of violence and deepen the suffering of those directly affected by the conflict.

PICTALK



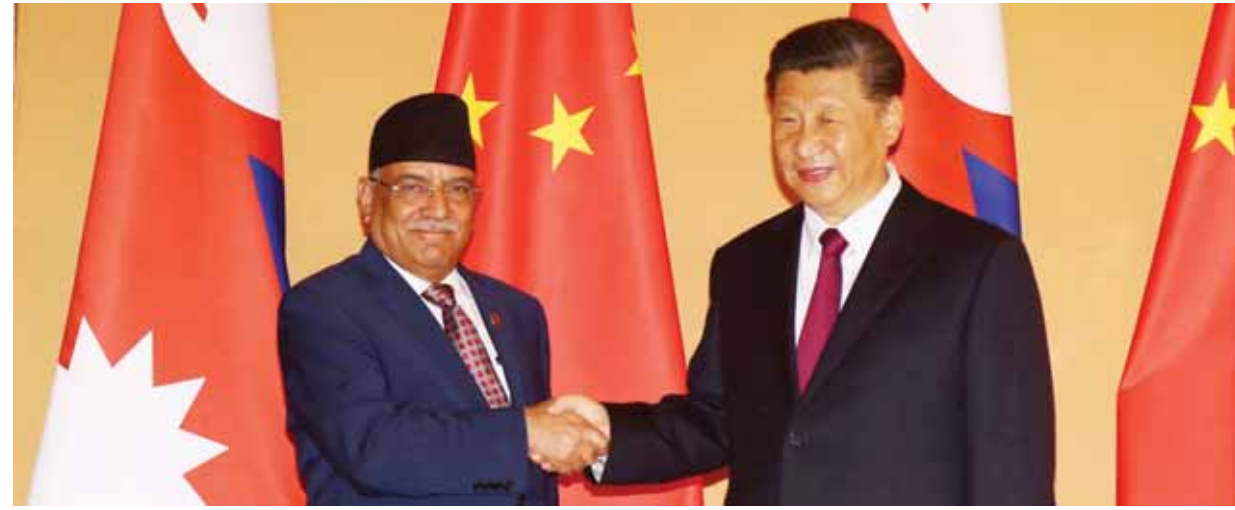
Artists perform during the closing ceremony of the annual Camel Fair, in Pushkar

Nepal in the throes of strategic choices

Nepal is exercising its strategic autonomy; distancing itself from the bullying Chinese dragon

Nepal is recovering from its long annual hangover after celebrating Dussehra and Tihar. It energises Nepal to face the winter and the new year Vikram Samvat 2080 but with one-third of Nepal in India and abroad with 1500 youth leaving Nepal every day. The rising standards of living and consumption are visible to me who has seen Nepal almost annually since 1959. Still, people are rich or very poor with the middle class small. People are happy except for the victims of the dengue and Jajarkot earthquake. Nepalese are happy with so little. When piped water, electricity, schools and hospitals reached the valleys or near the road network, people descended from the hills to avail man-made facilities, forfeiting nature's gifts to the hills. Hastily carved unmetalled roads have scarred the hills polluting the environment. Scooters, cars, motorbikes, trucks, tractors...anything with an engine moves along dusty tracks. Some people began returning to the hills.

Last week Kathmandu news was dominated by one man: businessman-politician and expelled from CPN UML, Durga Prasain. He threatened to bring into Kathmandu 10 lakh protesters to rally against former PM and CPN UML chief, KP Oli. He is facing legal action for bad debt on loans taken from state banks. The debt, he says, will be repaid when he is solvent. Prasian has roped in King Gyanendra who is patiently waiting in the distant hope that monarchy will be restored. The mood in the country for the return of loyalty is growing given the pathetic track record of the secular, federal, democratic republic of Nepal. It was the Prachanda-led decade-long Maoist civil war that dismantled the monarchy in 2008 which was ratified by the 2015 constitution. Gyanendra attended a Prasian-organised function in East Nepal at which he said: "We never wanted Nepal to become a republic that sends 10 mn youth to the Gulf countries". Gyanendra is on a tight leash from the state although his daughter-in-law Himani is pop-



ularly active, doing social welfare. Gyanendra has met the Chief Minister of UP, Yogi Adityanath twice this year. There's a strong and historic bond between the Shah dynasty and Gorakhnath Peeth of Adityanath. The royalists RPP led by Rajendra Lingden (both the old leaders Pashupati Rana and Kamal Thapa have been marginalised) has made big electoral gains. People ask me whether India is supporting the formation of Hindu Rashtra and the return of monarchy. I say the decision will be that of the people of Nepal. But Buddhiman Gurung, a Nepali Congress businessman who lives in Lame Ahal, Pokhara where I too reside in Nepal, says emphatically: "Monarchy can never come back". But there is little doubt that support for the royals has grown exponentially. It is a clear reflection of the satisfaction that the current quality of governance provides. Prachanda the awesome leader of the Maoist Party with 32 seats in a house of 275 and whose party's fortunes are declining, has ensured his popularity is rising by attacking corruption frontally. He leads an alliance government that has former PM Sher Bahadur Deuba-led Nepali Congress as the largest party. But such is the electoral dynamic between NC and former Prime Minister KP



GEOGRAPHY IS INDIA'S BIGGEST ASSET IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH NEPAL WHICH SHOULD NO LONGER CHOOSE TO BE A YAM BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA

Oli's CPN UML (the second largest party) that Prachanda is the kingmaker. He will complete one year in power next month and though there is a power-sharing arrangement with Deuba, he has been saying he will rule for all five years, apparently by doing an Oli on Deuba. In the previous Oli-led alliance, Prachanda had a power-sharing agreement with Oli which the latter did not honour. A rash of scams involving politicians and bureaucrats has made people very angry: Gold smuggling from China, human trafficking of Nepalese passed off as Bhutanese refugees for asylum in the US and the Baluwater land sales scam. These involve former Prime Ministers, ministers, their spouses and sons. Former Water Resources Minister Dipak Gyawali said: "corruption will emasculate Nepal". The other contemporary issue is Transitional Reconciliation and Justice, dating back to the Maoist insurgency 17 years ago. On a visit to Nepal recently, UN Secretary-General António Guterres agreed to help Nepal in finding a resolution emphasising it has to be 'victim-centric'. The victims of the Jajarkot earthquake are still out in the cold as Prachanda goes to Dubai for a climate change summit tomorrow. The ban on TikTok proved

extremely unpopular. Shanti Gurung told me how she and her friends have circumvented it through VPN. TikTok has made celebrities and some people very rich in Nepal. Senior CPC leader of Tibet Affairs Management Executive Committee Wang Junzheng visited Nepal this month as part of regular visits by Chinese leaders. Prachanda on his visit to China in September did not sign in on BRI 2.0 but Nepal has subscribed to US MCC after years of political wrangling and covert threats by the US. Nepal is exercising its strategic autonomy, but China is a bullying neighbour. Kathmandu wants villages in the 21 Northern districts to patch up with China's Tibet power grid. Chinese-built airports with high-interest loans at Bhairawa and Pokhara are not in business, restricted to domestic flights. Flying over the IAF Jaguar base at Gorakhpur is the problem. But the issue can be resolved. Geography is India's biggest asset in bilateral relations with Nepal which should no longer choose to be a yam between China and India. (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOVERNORS ABUSE NORMS

Sir — Raj Bhavans have become centres of inaction and retrogression in the states that are ruled by the opposition. Bills that were passed by the legislatures and sent for assent gathered dust in the governor's office. Raj Bhavans hardly bother to update the status of pending bills. In this context, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala approached the Supreme Court with identical prayers. The Court held that the surplusage expression in Article 200 "as soon as possible" conveys a constitutional imperative of expedition. Any other reading of Article would leave the Governor in a position to virtually veto the functioning of the legislative domain by a duly elected legislature. It added, "Such a course of action would be contrary to the fundamental principles of a constitutional democracy based on a parliamentary pattern of governance." According to Dr. PK Sen (Bihar), "the question is whether, by interfering, the Governor would be upholding the democratic idea or subverting it. It would really be a surrender of democracy." An appointee who holds office only during the president's pleasure cannot act in a way that is detrimental to the elected governments and people.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

A SYMBOL HYPOCRISY

Sir — People are amused to see that the role of the Election Commission (EC), once independent under Election Commissioner Tirunellai Narayana Iyer Seshan, has become a symbol of "double standards," favouring Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah-led Bharatiya Janata Party. If not, then why did it hurriedly withdraw the permission previously granted to the Telangana government to provide financial aid to farmers under the Rythu Bandhu scheme at the start of rabi sowing? Whereas the poll panel has not acted on the Congress's complaints against the allegedly incendiary speeches made by PM Modi and Shah in Rajasthan. Not only Modi didn't stop here, even when the Congress objected, saying Modi's

Need speedy judicial system



While the Supreme Court (SC) plays a significant role in delivering justice, a cornerstone of the Indian Judiciary System since independence has had a slow working methodology. Litigants and accused have to wait years for the closure of cases and judgement delivery. In most cases, victims do not get instant judgements, and for this reason, sometimes even victims and their families suffer outages in society. "Justice delayed is justice denied," therefore courts should give due consideration to the claims filed.

The Indian Judiciary holds the highest pendency of cases and lacks a time frame for the disposal of litigation and appeals. At present, there are 79,813 cases pending before the 34 judges of the Supreme Court. That cleared depicts the need for constitutional reforms and revamping the structure of the top court to clear the pendency of cases. The supreme court hears between the centre and the states and between states, rules on domestic and family cases, civil and criminal cases, RTI (right to information) litigation, and provides legal and constitutional advice to the head of the state, i.e., the president. However, it creates burdens on the top court. Distributed or decentralised work mechanisms should be adopted by the judicial authorities for consistency and to ensure better judicial stability. To build the trust of society and its people, apparent and clear-cut constitutional idealism is mandatory.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

statement was a violation of the poll code, the PM slammed the party at a rally in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh, on November 8, saying, "Let them (the Congress) commit this sin (of objecting to his remarks), I will continue to do good work for the people... Eighty crore people will get free rations for the next five years." Moreover, shouldn't PM Modi and Amit Shah go on political campaigning with their government officials, and the EC remains blind to it? The way Amit Shah and other BJP leaders openly offer the Ram Temple tour promise, they want to know if the poll body has relaxed the Model Code of Conduct. However, these are proofs that the current EC has become a "symbol of hypocrisy" and "double standards."

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

RINKU'S TALENT LIES IN T20

Sir — Some very talented batsmen in India have fizzled out due to undue expectations and misplaced priorities. A lot is expected of Rinku Singh, the new Indian T20 bat-

ting star, who has captured the imagination of the cricketing world. Rinku did well in the first two T20 matches against Australia, and what impressed many were the views he expressed in an interview following the first fixture. His focus on remaining calm and modelling himself on that cool customer, MS Dhoni, revealed that Rinku has set himself unambiguous goals.

By all accounts, he seems destined to play for the Indian T20 team for some time. At any rate, it may be difficult for him to break into the 50-over one-day side anytime soon, and that's how it should be. Selectors and team management should identify horses for the courses. India's batting ills lie in the fact that some players are nudged to play in all formats. A player like Rinku Singh must be given a long rope in T20 that is tailor-made for him.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

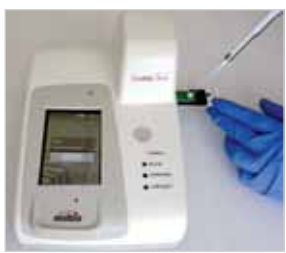
A new hope for Tuberculosis patients

TrueNat is a molecular test that replaces sputum microscopy for TB diagnosis. It is fast and accurate and will help in early detection and treatment

The latest country report on Tuberculosis (TB) indicates that in India, women account for 39.1% of the total cases notified. But missing from these figures are the hundreds of women who remain undetected and uncounted.

Why do women report fewer cases of TB than men? The lack of agency, poorer access to healthcare services, household responsibilities and the stigma associated with TB prevent women from coming forward to seek treatment. They are often reluctant to reveal they might have TB due to potential rejection from their families. Women also delay seeking care because they are hesitant to use family resources, often meagre. They wait until they are severely ill. By then, it is often fatal.

It is not just their lives that are on the line. There is a sixfold increase in perinatal deaths and a two-fold risk of premature birth and low birth weight babies of mothers with active TB. Women living with HIV and TB face a double whammy as their unborn child faces twice the risk of vertical transmission of HIV,



according to the World Health Organisation. All this can be prevented with proper treatment. Data shows that 85% of people recover from TB if treated. However, treatment can only begin when there is a proper diagnosis. An early and accurate diagnosis is key to reducing not just deaths but TB-related life-changing impairment.

This is where TrueNat, a new molecular test that replaces the traditional sputum microscopy to diagnose TB, is making a difference. Not only does it enable rapid and accurate diagnosis, it can be taken to the doorstep thanks to its innovative portable technology. So, reaching out to a larger population, particularly vulnerable and marginalised women, is possible. Importantly, correct treatment can begin at the first

point of contact on the same day. Developed in India by the Goa-based Molbio Diagnostic, TrueNat also tests for resistance to the drug Rifampicin in approximately 90 minutes. Endorsed and included in the WHO Global TB Programme for its "high diagnostic accuracy", the Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) using TrueNat can be conducted in facilities without an air-conditioned lab and in remote centres plagued by power outages as it runs on solar powered battery. Used in tandem with a portable digital X-ray machine, also battery operated, it can save more lives.

That it is possible to fully transition from sputum microscopy to rapid molecular diagnosis, as has been recommended by WHO, has been shown by Goa. It is the first state in India to achieve this significant milestone. This shift has led to higher testing, early diagnosis, and boosted chances of recovery. TB being a contagious disease, one of the places where early and accurate diagnosis is direly needed is in prisons. A Lancet study has shown

that prisoners in India are five times more at risk of developing TB than the general population. Consider then the danger of TB infection faced by women prisoners housed in overcrowded jails. The number of women jailed by the end of 2021 was 22,918 but the capacity of the existing 32 women's jails is 6767, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau report. In fact, only 18% of female prisoners get exclusive women's prison facilities, states the Justice Amitava Roy Committee report on prison reforms. Appointed by the Supreme Court, the committee, which presented its report earlier this year, said "Women in incarceration suffer the brunt of imprisonment far worse than their male counterparts, especially with regard to access to basic facilities, medical care and medical staff." This huge breakthrough means a decrease in price and increased accessibility.

(Swapna Majumdar is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views expressed are personal)



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

FIRST COLUMN

GOD HAS ALL THE POWER

If we want highest qualities, we must become devotees of God



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Does it sound unfair? Think about it. Imagine one of us even with a little power. We are inclined to abuse it, especially if there is no fear of punishment. These examples will substantiate. What do despots do? They bring unimaginable pain and suffering to the citizens. What do corrupt policemen do? They victimise the victim, if he is a rich man; they exploit him. What does a bully in a school do? There are innumerable such examples. We, human beings, are incapable of handling power.

The creation works on the principle of 'karmaphala', which is, "What you sow you reap." Suppose God did not keep all the powers with Himself, what can someone do with an atom bomb? He can kill innumerable innocent citizens, who don't deserve to die according to their karmaphalas. Don't we have free will? So God had to balance between allowing free will and controlling all actions by everyone in order that the creation can go on. Parallel powers are unworkable. Yes, God empowers His devotees in many ways, as Arjuna was blessed, but these are His devotees, who are highly disciplined, and act as per God's plans.

So let us get some idea of absolute nature of God's powers, which are briefly described by Lord Krishna in the verse # 10.41 of the Bhagavad-Geeta, "Whatever there is opulent, effulgent or even energetic, all that you should know as produced from a fragment of My splendour." These famous examples will shed some light about the extent of God's powers. Starting with the light of the sun, what does Lord Krishna state, "I am light of the sun." (7.8) What happened when Arjuna promised to kill Jayadratha before sunset? He was to enter fire if he couldn't. What did Lord Krishna do? He protected his 'nimitta' (instrument) by restoring



the setting sun's light. As a result, there was daylight and Jayadratha came out from the protection of Kauravas; Arjuna killed him. Similarly, the Lord says that the heat of fire is from Him. (7.9) So, what happened when Seetaji entered fire in her fire test? She came out unscathed, because the heat of fire was withdrawn by Lord Rama. Another famous example is of Ashwathama using 'Brahmastra' on child Parikshit, who was at that time in the womb of his mother Uttara. What did Lord Krishna do? He simply made Brahmastra harmless by withdrawing its enormous power? He could because nothing is independently powerful, neither a person nor a weapon. If this was not so, there will be parallel power, which cannot be allowed, as this can cause disruption in the creation's functioning.

Before I go any further in describing God's unlimited powers, a question must be answered, which is, "Why does God not stop miseries heaped by a strong person on the weak? Does God not have such a power? He does but allows it. Why? Because we suffer due to our karmaphal. Others are just acting as mediums. In those cases, God remains aloof. Continuing about the extent of Lord's powers, Lord Krishna says that He is manliness of men (7.8), which is a traditional quality of being brave and strong. In the verse # 7.11, the Lord repeats this by stating that he is the strength of strong. However, in this verse, the Lord qualifies it by stating that such persons should be devoid of lust and attachment. If they are not, God will withdraw it from them. What happened to the most powerful man because of his lusty behaviour? I am referring to the last US President. Same could be said about Swami Vivekananda, whose brightness impressed one and all, wherever he travelled in the world. Where did this devotee of the highest order get his brightness? From God of course! I can go on, but the message is loud and clear. If we want the highest qualities, we must become devotees of God, otherwise we will always be inferior; God is ready to bestow upon us whatever is cherished by us. Source for everything superior is God only; He has all the powers.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

Succumbing to the challenges of growth



UTTAM CHAKRABORTY

The removal of founders from the companies they birthed, is a complex and often painful process

British writer and theologian Frederick William Robertson has rightly quoted, "There are three things in the world that deserve no mercy, hypocrisy, fraud, and tyranny." Power is a pervasive and fundamental force in human relations and plays a valuable role in social, political and economic interactions. Power differences in social groups are important in promoting group activities. Most people want power, and power has many benefits. However, power is a corrupting force in several instances. The recent and short departure of Sam Altman from OpenAI and again returning to the company in the same post is a matter of surprise. However, founders being ousted from their organisations have been the larger picture for deliberations. This phenomenon is unfortunate, but not new. History has been witnessed with examples of visionary leaders who found themselves at odds with their boards or stakeholders, resulting in their removal. From the likes of Steve Jobs at Apple to Travis Kalanick at Uber, the stories are as varied as the industries themselves.

The Myth of Invincibility

The myth of invincibility continues. One common thread that ties together the stories of ousted founders is the perception of invincibility that often surrounds them. When a company is in its infancy, the founder is not just a leader but a symbol of the organisation's identity and purpose. However, as the company grows, the demands and challenges evolve, and the skills needed to lead a startup may not necessarily align with those required to steer a large corporation. Founders, especially those with a strong vision and personality, may find it challenging to adapt to these changing dynamics. Sam Altman's exit for some days from OpenAI serves as a case in point. While he played a pivotal role in the organisation's early success, the need for a different leadership style to navigate the complexities of a rapidly expanding enterprise may have become apparent. Boards and stakeholders, driven by a duty to ensure the company's long-term viability, might make the tough decision to part ways with the very leader who brought the company into existence.

The Ashneer Grover Saga

The story of Ashneer Grover, co-founder of Indian fintech giant BharatPe can be thought of in this context. It is another chapter in the book of ousted founders. In his case, the clash was not just about strategic direction but also about clashes of egos and leadership styles. Grover's outspoken and sometimes controversial demeanour, which might have been tolerated or even celebrated in the start-up phase, became a liability as the company matured. This raises a crucial question: How much of a founder's identity is tied to the company they create, and when does that identity start to hinder rather than propel the organisation forward? The removal of founders like Grover suggests that companies may prioritise stability and a more harmonious internal environment over the charisma and idiosyncrasies of their visionary leaders.

The Travis Kalanick Case

The case of Travis Kalanick at Uber is perhaps one of the most infamous



THE RECENT AND SHORT DEPARTURE OF ALTMAN FROM OPENAI IS THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. POWER, PRIVILEGE, CORRUPTION AND HYPOCRISY CONTINUE TO RULE

examples of a founder's ousting in history. The ride-sharing giant's rapid ascent was accompanied by numerous controversies, including allegations of workplace harassment and a toxic corporate culture. In this instance, the board's decision to remove Kalanick was driven not just by financial concerns but also by a pressing need to address the company's tarnished reputation. Kalanick's story underscores the importance of accountability in leadership. While founders are often given leeway in the early stages, the moment their actions jeopardise the company's integrity or public perception, boards are compelled to act. This raises questions about the delicate balance between a founder's autonomy and the responsibility they bear to the company and its stakeholders.

Adam Neumann's Fate

WeWork's Adam Neumann is another founder whose grand vision ultimately led to his downfall. Neumann's ambitious plans for WeWork, including its IPO, were marred by controversies surrounding the company's financial health and governance practices. His removal was a necessary corrective measure to salvage the company and protect the interests of investors. The cautionary tale of Adam Neumann serves as a reminder that while visionary leadership is crucial for a startup's success, unchecked ambition and a lack of grounding, in reality, can lead to a founder's undoing. Boards and stakehold-

ers must carefully evaluate whether a founder's aspirations align with the company's long-term sustainability or if they are veering into the realm of fantasy.

Steve Jobs's Tale

In the pantheon of ousted founders, Steve Jobs stands out as a unique case. His departure from Apple in 1985 was a result of internal power struggles and disagreements with the board. Jobs's confrontational style and tendency to make unilateral decisions further fuelled the tensions within Apple. His unwillingness to compromise and his impatience with dissenting viewpoints alienated both colleagues and board members. In 1985, after a series of heated confrontations and a vote of no confidence from the board, Jobs was forced to resign as CEO. However, Jobs' eventual return to Apple in 1997 and the subsequent resurrection of the company's fortunes showcase the rare scenario where a founder is reinstated to lead their creation once again. Jobs' story is a testament to the enduring impact of a visionary leader and the potential for redemption. However, it is worth noting that Jobs returned to Apple with a tempered approach and a willingness to collaborate, a stark contrast to his earlier stint. This suggests that even in exceptional cases, founders must evolve and adapt to the changing needs of their organisations.

The Bottom Line

The recent and short departure of

Altman from OpenAI is the tip of the iceberg. Power, privilege, corruption and hypocrisy continue to rule everywhere. The removal of founders from the companies they birthed is a complex and often painful process. It involves a delicate balance between preserving a company's identity and ensuring its long-term success. While each case is unique, common themes emerge - clashes of egos, leadership style mismatches, accountability issues, and the perils of visionary excess.

The stories of Sam Altman, Ashneer Grover, Travis Kalanick, Adam Neumann, and Steve Jobs provide valuable insights into the challenges and pitfalls that founders may face as their companies evolve. The key lesson for both founders and boards is the importance of adaptability and a shared commitment to the organisation's well-being. In the ever-changing landscape of business, the question remains: Can founders successfully navigate the transition from startup visionaries to leaders of established enterprises? The answer may lie in their ability to embrace change, foster a culture of accountability, and, when necessary, make the difficult decision to step aside for the greater good of the organisation they helped create.

(The writer is an Associate Professor at the School of Management, Presidency University Bengaluru; views are personal)

Ancient Indian democracy: Lessons for today

In the ancient democracy of southern India, there was zero tolerance for corruption and strict punishment was given to defaulters

Even during kings' reigns democracy was practised and flourished, but even after so many technological advancements in the 21st century, the elections are used for self-gain. Many times it questions whether they run a government or a business. There are no constructive rules for the candidate's section. It leads to less hope in democracy.

The state of corruption and its deep Nexus create a worrying stage. At once, Tamil Nadu was teaching democracy and ethics to the rest of the world by inscriptions. Now all the developmental activities are marred by corruption. Most of the funds allotted for various programs and



KS RADHAKRISHNAN

policies are siphoned in the name of Implementation, but the truth is that it goes into the pockets of politicians. The bureaucracy which is well-known for red tape, complicated procedures, and poor transparency in various policies and programs is also responsible for more corruption activities. From the Chola period, we can see a procedural usage of public money for various programs.

Now on the contrary, when a new government assumes power, the plants and programs of earlier governments get cancelled out rightly, leading to a waste of public money. It is widely known that people who are prone to corrupt attitudes are escaping the clutches of



law due to the unclear nature of laws and underhand dealings with higher officials. No laws are daring enough to reach the corrupt and put them behind bars. One should think that the country is not only run by technology but also the scope of human resources. In this era of Artificial intel-

ligence youths are taking everything for Granted and are not ready to make the right decision and questioning the state of the world a comfortable life is a primary requirement. Nobody is ready to take responsibility to make the system stand right. As we are from the land of

Swami Vivekananda, his message for the youth of this country is "Let human". He also dwelt on the capabilities of the youth; he wanted the youth to train itself to serve humanity. What he wanted from the youth were 'muscles of iron' and 'nerves of steel'. Today, the youth are exceptionally responsive and they just need to be encouraged. Swami Vivekananda was only the medium; he is himself the message as well for the youth of India. His teachings will always stay relevant. He once said, "The education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle for life, which does not bring out the strength of

character, a spirit of philanthropy, and the courage of a lion - is it worth the name? Real education is that which enables one to stand on one's own." For him, education meant secular learning that built character and instilled human values in students. All these initiatives of the Government require active involvement and support of youth as they are the major stakeholders of the future of this country. As Swami Vivekananda once exhorted, "Arise! Awake! And stop not till the goal is reached", let us all unite and work for the country with Purity, patience, and perseverance as the Swami felt long ago that these three are essentials to success. The country, believe it or

not, is in dire need of a revolution and the only hope we have is the youth. With their vision and farsightedness, the youth can bring to the plate not only changes but freshness which the country could use to give itself an image makeover. The Chola administration has become the foundation for modern democracy. We are in the age to revive our electoral pattern as our democratic legacy extends far beyond Athenian democracy and the Roman Republic.

(The writer is an activist and a lawyer, the views expressed are personal) This is the second part of the series on ancient Indian democracy. Concluded

Israel must work to avoid 'further displacement' of civilians in Gaza

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration has told Israel that it must work to avoid "significant further displacement" of Palestinian civilians in southern Gaza if it renews its ground campaign aimed at eradicating the Hamas militant group, senior US officials said. The administration, seeking to avoid more large-scale civilian casualties or mass displacement like that seen before the current temporary pause in the fighting, underscored to the Israelis that they must operate with far greater precision in southern Gaza than they did in the north, the officials said, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House.

Amid mounting international and domestic pressure about the rising Palestinian death toll, the White House has begun to put greater pressure on Israel that the manner of the coming campaign must be "carefully thought through," according to one of the officials. The Israelis have been receptive when administration officials have raised these concerns, the official said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made clear that Israeli Defense Forces will eventually restart military operations after the conclusion of the current, temporary cease-fire that has allowed for an exchange of hostages taken by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. The two sides agreed Monday to extend the truce for an additional two days and to continue swapping hostages for prisoners.

President Joe Biden has said he would like to see the pause — which has also allowed a surge of much-needed humanitarian aid to get into Gaza — continue as long as feasible. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will return this week to the Middle East as the U.S. hopes to find a way to extend the cease-fire and get more hostages released, the State Department said Monday. It will be his third trip to the region since Israel's war with Hamas began last month.

Family of infant hostage pleads for his release as truce winds down

Tel Aviv (AP): Kfir Bibas has spent nearly a fifth of his life in Hamas captivity. The 10-month-old was abducted from his home in a southern Israeli kibbutz on Oct. 7, when Palestinian militants snatched about 240 people and dragged them to Gaza.

Kfir, the youngest captive, was among about 30 children who were taken hostage in Hamas' assault. Under a current temporary cease-fire, Hamas has released women, children and teens, but Kfir hasn't been included on the lists of those set to be freed.

With his red hair and toothless smile, Kfir's ordeal has become for many a symbol of the brutality of Hamas' attack. With most other young hostages already released, Kfir's fate and that of his 4-year-old brother, Ariel, are now a rallying cry for Israelis seeking the speedy release of all the hostages. A demonstration in

support of the Bibas family is being held in Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

"There is no precedent for something like this, for a baby who was kidnapped when he was 9 months old," Eylon Keshet, Kfir's father's cousin, told reporters on Tuesday. "Is baby Kfir the enemy of Hamas?"

Shortly after the Hamas attack, video emerged of Kfir and Ariel swaddled in a blanket around their mother, Shiri, with gunmen shouting in Arabic surrounding her. The Bibas children bob around as their mother appears terrified. "No one will hurt her, so she would know that we care about humanity. Cover her and keep her until you take her alive. Let her know," said one man. "She has children," said another. "She has children, yes," the first speaker responds. Yarden, their father, was also taken captive and appears in

photos to have been wounded. Kfir Bibas' family, like other relatives of captives, has been tormented since Oct. 7. They have received no sign that he is still alive and wonder how such a helpless infant can cope with being in captivity for so long.

"I am mostly trying to understand how they pass an entire day there," Kfir's aunt, Ofri Bibas Levy, told The Associated Press in an interview earlier this month. "Is Kfir getting his bottle?" she asked, adding that he was still only crawling when he was seized, but is likely to have reached the stage when he starts using objects to stand up and move around, a joyful milestone he may have hit while in captivity.

Former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has brought Kfir's picture to international media studios and brandished it on camera.

than 1,200 people have been killed on the Israeli side, mostly civilians killed in the initial attack. At least 77 soldiers have been killed in Israel's ground offensive.

The US believes roughly 2 million Palestinians are now in south and central Gaza. Biden administration officials have made clear to the Israelis that an already stretched humanitarian support network would be unable to cope with the sort of displacement that those from northern Gaza have endured in Israel's retaliatory strikes and ground operations.

Biden administration officials have also told the Israelis they expect them to conduct operations in a way that will be "maximally deconflicted" with the operation of humanitarian aid facilities, United Nations-supported shelters and core infrastructure, including electricity and water.

The World Health Organization has warned that the war has caused a bur-

geoning public health crisis that is a recipe for epidemics as displaced Palestinians have been forced to take shelter in cramped homes and camps.

One administration official said vaccines are among the medical goods flowing into Gaza, but there has also been a focus on potable water supplies and sanitation to prevent outbreaks of typhoid and cholera. To that end, the White House has also pushed to get as much fuel into Gaza as possible — something the Israelis resisted, particularly in the first weeks of war, citing concerns that it would be siphoned by Hamas.

The officials said the U.S. on Tuesday would dispatch the first of three U.S. military humanitarian aid flights to northern Egypt carrying medical supplies, food aid and winter items for Gaza's civilian population.

The aid is to be delivered into Gaza by the United Nations.

enged in furious diplomacy to try to prevent the Gaza conflict from spreading, expand the provision of humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians in the territory, secure the release of hostages and arrange for foreigners and dual nationals to leave Gaza overland to Egypt.

On each of his prior two trips, Blinken has travelled to Israel and Jordan multiple times. Between the two trips, he also made stops in Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the UAE.

Blinken will arrive in Israel having just participated in an Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe foreign ministers meeting in Skopje. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said he plans to attend the OSCE meeting, possibly setting the stage for a US-Russia confrontation there over Ukraine. In Brussels, Blinken will attend the two-day NATO gathering, which will include the first foreign minister-level meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Council, a body created by alliance leaders at their last summit to improve cooperation and coordination and help prepare Kyiv for eventual membership.

London (PTI): British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has reportedly cancelled a planned meeting on Tuesday with his Greek counterpart, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, during a visit to the UK amid a deepening row over the return of the 'Elgin Marbles'. The ancient Greek sculptures from the Parthenon in Athens are among the controversial historic items which were brought to the UK by British diplomat Lord Elgin in the early 19th century — giving them their English name.

The Parthenon Sculptures now form part of the British Museum's collection and have long been demanded by the Greeks to complete their series at the Acropolis Museum in Athens.

The latest standoff is reminiscent of India's demands for the Koh-i-Noor diamond and other historic artefacts taken from India during colonial times. Most recently, the Maharashtra government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Victoria and Albert Museum for a three-year loan of a set of 17th century 'Tiger Claws', or wagh nakh, believed to have belonged to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It is destined for Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) as part of Maharashtra's 350th anniversary celebrations of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

The UK-Greece standoff seems to have erupted after Downing Street claimed that it had been agreed that the issue would not be raised during any bilateral between Sunak and Mitsotakis, a claim denied by the Greeks.

On Sunday, the Greek Prime Minister told the BBC that having some of the Parthenon treasures in London and others in Athens was like cutting the 'Mona Lisa' painting in half. "That seems to have triggered the row, as Mitsotakis then told reporters on Monday evening that he was "deeply disappointed by the abrupt cancellation" of his meeting with Sunak, which had been planned for Tuesday afternoon. "Those who believe in the correctness and justice of their positions are never hesitant to engage in constructive argumentation and debate," said the Greek Prime Minister.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will return this week to the Middle East as the US hopes to find a way to extend a cease-fire in Gaza and get more hostages released, the State Department said. It will be his third trip to the region since Israel's war with Hamas began last month. Blinken will travel to Israel and the West Bank after attending Ukraine-focused meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday in Brussels and Skopje, North Macedonia, where foreign ministers from NATO and the Organisation for Peace and Security in Europe are gathering. Israel has agreed to pauses in its military operations in exchange for the gradual release of hostages taken by Hamas during its October 7 attacks on Israel.

The agreement had been due to expire Monday but was extended for an additional two days, meaning the extension will be expiring just as Blinken is arriving in Israel. White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Monday the US hopes to see the pause extended further,

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This handout photo provided by the IDF on Monday released Israeli hostages Tal Goldstein Almog, 9, left, and his brother Gal, 11 as they return to Israel in an IAF helicopter, after being held hostage by militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip. AP/PTI

Blinken to return to Israel

AP ■ BRUSSELS

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S Korea delays its spy satellite liftoff

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea has postponed the planned launch of its first military spy satellite set for this Thursday, officials said, days after rival North Korea claimed to put its own spy satellite into orbit for the first time.

Under a contract with SpaceX, South Korea is to launch five spy satellites by 2025, and its first launch using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket had been scheduled to take place at California's Vandenberg Air Force Base in the United States.

The South Korean Defence Ministry said in a brief statement on Tuesday the launch was delayed due to weather conditions. Ministry officials said the launch was tentatively rescheduled for this Saturday but it wasn't a fixed date.

South Korea currently has no military reconnaissance satellites of its own and partially resorts to US spy satellites to monitor moves by North Korea.

After two launch failures earlier this year, North Korea said it successfully placed its "Malligyong-1" spy satellite into orbit on November 21. South Korea said it has confirmed that the satellite entered orbit, but said it needs more time to verify whether it is working properly.

North Korea said on Tuesday leader Kim Jong Un reviewed imagery taken by the Malligyong-1 satellite of the White House and the Pentagon in Washington and US aircraft carriers at a navy base and a shipyard in Virginia. North Korea earlier said the satellite also transmitted photos of US military facilities in Guam and Hawaii and key sites in South Korea.

North Korea hasn't yet released those satellite photos. Outside experts remain skeptical about whether the North Korean satellite can



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Haley: Trump causes too much chaos

Bluffton (US) (AP): Nikki Haley argued former president Donald Trump causes too much chaos to be successful in a second White House term, reiterating her argument about the GOP front-runner at a large town hall in her home state of South Carolina.

The former governor and United Nations ambassador on Monday drew the largest crowd of her primary campaign so far as she tries to close the gap with Trump just weeks before the Iowa caucuses kick off the Republican nominating calendar.

Haley invoked her former boss saying, as she has before, that she believes Trump was "the right president at the right time" but that the time is now right for a new generation in US leadership. "I agree with a lot of his policies, but the truth is, rightly or wrongly, chaos follows him," Haley said. "We have too much division in this country, and too many threats around the world to be sitting in chaos once again."

About 2,500 people attended the event at a satellite campus of the University of South Carolina along the state's southern coast. Half that number watched her event from video screens outside the venue after it reached capacity. Hours ahead of Monday's start time, the line for attendees wrapped around the venue, which the campaign said had to be changed from its original location due to demand.

Her staff has cast her campaign as being on a rising trajectory and pointed to growing crowds in recent weeks as she gets new attention from voters and donors looking for a Trump alternative.

Haley remains among a pack of candidates competing for a distant second place with Trump, who has led the GOP field since kicking off his third presidential campaign last year. Later this week, Haley will head back to New Hampshire, where she has stumped heavily.

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Dubai prepares to host COP28

AP ■ DUBAI

Dubai prepared to host the COP28 climate talks on Tuesday as world leaders including US President Joe Biden signalled they would not be attending the negotiations that come during the ongoing Israel-Hamas war roiling the wider Middle East.

Workers under a still scorching November sun stapled up bunting and decorated Dubai Expo City's iconic Al Wasl Dome with trees and other green foliage ahead of the summit, scheduled to start Thursday in the United Arab Emirates. Armed United Nations police patrolled about half the area of Expo City where the delegates will debate, while the other half will host other climate events. Airport-style security screenings greeted those coming into both areas.

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Britain's King Charles and Pope Francis will be among the leaders to attend the talks, even as the 86-year-old Francis battles a lung inflammation. However, some have said or otherwise signalled they won't be attending the Conference of the Parties — where COP gets

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US Navy removes fuel from plane that overshot Hawaii runway

Kaneohe Bay (US): The US Navy said Monday that it has removed nearly all of the fuel from a large plane that overshot a Hawaii runway and landed in an environmentally sensitive bay, but it doesn't have a timetable for when it will get the aircraft out of the water. Rear Adm. Kevin Lenox said there was an estimated 2,000 gallons (7,500 liters) of fuel on board the P-8A.

"The team extracted all the fuel that they could get out of those tanks. This process was completed successfully without any fuel being released into the bay," Lenox said at a news conference. Removing the fuel will reduce the risks for the rest of the salvage operation, he said. There were no injuries to the nine people who were on board when the plane landed Nov. 20 in shall-

low water just offshore of Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay. The base is about 10 miles (16 kilometers) from Honolulu.

Cmdr. Mark Anderson, who is leading the Navy's mobile diving and salvage unit working at the site, said the plane was sitting on a mixture of coral and sand. The left engine is resting on coral. The plane rises a little with the tide, so the full weight of the plane is not on the coral, he said. Kaneohe Bay is home to coral reefs, an ancient Hawaiian fishpond and a breeding ground for hammerhead sharks. There may have been some minor damage to the coral but there didn't appear to be "massive chunks missing," Anderson said. Still, the focus currently is on stabilizing the plane and developing a plan to move it, he said. AP

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The Israeli government did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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Meanwhile, Syrian President Bashar Assad won't be attending either, according to the pro-government newspaper Al-Watan, despite receiving an invitation from Emirati leader Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The White House has said it is sending a climate team, including Special Envoy John Kerry, climate adviser Ali Zaidi and clean energy adviser John Podesta.

It remains unclear if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will attend the talks, particularly as Arab nations have reacted with anger over the punishing bombardment and ground offensive in the Gaza Strip after Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel. The UAE reached a diplomatic recognition deal with Israel in 2020, but public anger still seethes in this autocratic nation of seven sheikhdoms.

The Israeli government did not immediately respond to a

Imran's trial to continue in Adiala jail in open court

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A special court here ruled on Tuesday that trial proceedings of jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan in the cipher case will continue in prison in an open court setting after authorities did not present him for a hearing held at a normal court citing security concerns. The 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief has been incarcerated at the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi since September 26.

His in-prison trial had been going in the high-security jail until last week when the Islamabad High Court (IHC) declared it null and void on procedural grounds and also declared that the proceedings conducted so far were vitiated. Special Court Judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain presided over the hearing on Tuesday at the Federal Judicial Complex (FJC) in Islamabad, where authorities failed to produce Khan, citing security reasons. "It has been informed that the PTI chairman faces security

risks of a serious scale," a report presented in the court by authorities said. Khan survived an assassination attempt in November 2022 during a political rally in Punjab province.

According to the report, intelligence agencies and the jail authorities raised concerns about life threats faced by the former premier, emphasising the gravity of the security risks. Last week, the special court ordered authorities to present Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi at the Federal Judicial Complex for the hearing of the case.

Qureshi, 67, was also arrested in the cipher (secret diplomatic cable) case and is imprisoned in the Adiala jail. Khan and Qureshi have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

After hearing the case, the special court approved the duo's jail trial in an open-court format at the next hearing. The court then adjourned the hearing of the case till December 1. The court noted that the jail authorities and security agencies had expressed

CIPHER CASE



their reservations about holding the trial at the FJC.

Anticipating potential security challenges, a meeting involving the police, administration, and relevant departments was convened on Monday to devise a comprehensive security plan for Khan's appearance. The Express

Tribune newspaper reported.

In its order, the court order stated that those who wished to attend the court proceedings would not be stopped and that journalists would also be permitted to witness the case.

It also said that five family members of each suspect would also be allowed inside the courtroom. The cipher case was launched in August this year after a case was filed against Khan for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a secret diplomatic cable - called the cipher - sent by the country's embassy in Washington in March last year.

The diplomatic cable reportedly went missing from Khan's possession. Khan and Qureshi, who had claimed that the cable contained a threat from the United States to topple the PTT's government, were indicted on October 23.

Khan was ousted through a vote of no-confidence in April 2022. More than 150 cases have been registered against him since his ouster from power.

Storm impacts Russian army operations

AP ■ MOSCOW

Tornadoes were forecast for the Black Sea region on Tuesday, a day after a storm that left more than 2 million people without electricity in Crimea, Russia and Ukraine. A think tank said that the weather also impacted Russian military operations.

The storm killed at least 14 people in Russia and Ukraine officials said as it toppled trees, tore down power lines and flooded coastal areas. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said at least five people died in the Odesa region of southern Ukraine, and that engineers were working to restore electricity to villages that have been cut off. On Tuesday morning, almost 1,00,000 people were still without power on the Crimean Peninsula and some still had no water supply, the Russia-installed governor said, announcing that several regions were still under a state of emergency. Crimea, which was annexed from Ukraine by Russia in 2014, is a key military and logistics hub for Russia as it pursues its war in Ukraine.

The damage caused by the storm affected "the tempo of military operations along the frontline in Ukraine," but has not stopped military activity entirely, the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) said.

The Washington-based think tank reported that the storm forced Russia to return all of its naval vessels and missile carriers to their bases, and suggested that the threat of mines drifting in the Black Sea will increase because the storm has dispersed minefields. There were also reports that the storm damaged railways in coastal areas which could have an impact on the Russian military's logistics capabilities in occupied Crimea and southern Ukraine, the ISW said.

Winds of 108 kph (67 mph) were forecast for Tuesday in Crimea, southern Russia and parts of northwestern Russia, the state news agency Tass reported.

Latvia's chief diplomat pursues NATO top job

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Latvia's foreign minister on Tuesday staked his claim to the top job at NATO, saying that the military organisation needs a consensus builder who is committed to higher defense spending and has a clear vision of how to deal with Russia.

NATO is likely to name a new secretary general at its next summit in Washington in July. Former Norwegian prime minister Jens Stoltenberg has been the alliance's top civilian official since 2014. His term has been extended four times during the war in Ukraine.

"We're going to have 32 countries. Keeping 32 countries together on any topic, it's a big challenge, and we need a consensus builder that can work with any and all allies, to move everyone forward in the same direction," Latvian Foreign Minister Krisjanis Karins told reporters at NATO headquarters. One of Stoltenberg's challenges is to help persuade Turkey, along with Hungary, to endorse Sweden's attempt to become NATO's 32nd member. NATO officials hope the issue will be resolved by the time US President Joe Biden and counterparts meet in Washington.

Karins was Latvia's prime minister for almost five years - NATO prefers its secretaries general to have served in top government posts - and oversaw an increase in defense spending. He said his country will spend 2.4 per cent of GDP on defense this year, above the organization's target of 2 per cent. Russia remains NATO's historical adversary, and managing the alliance's approach to Moscow is a major test. "The next secretary has to have a clear vision on the future role of NATO, how it's going to expand, how it's going to be working to contain Russia," Karins said. He said it's important not to panic while acknowledging "the very real threat that Russia is" and to work together to contain it.

"It is doable," he said. "We can do it if we are calm but very determined." With Russia locked in its war on Ukraine, the process of naming a new secretary general has become highly politicized. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland have taken an unbending line in support of Ukraine, and this could make it difficult for one of their leaders to get the job.

Most NATO countries have been keen to name a woman to the top post. Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas is considered a strong candidate. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen was thought to be a favorite after a meeting with Biden in the summer, but she later said she wasn't running. The president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, has ruled out her candidacy. Outgoing Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte is also a front runner.

NATO secretaries general are chosen by consensus. There



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, centre, speaks with Sweden's Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom, left, and Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, right, during a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in North Atlantic Council session at NATO headquarters in Brussels, on Tuesday

is no formal procedure for naming them, and diplomats have said that no official vetting is currently being done. The organization's top civilian official is responsible for chairing meetings and guiding sometimes delicate consultations between member countries to ensure that compromises are found so that an alliance that operates on consensus can continue to function.

The secretary general also ensures that decisions are put into action, speaks on behalf of all nations with one voice and rarely if ever singles out any member for public criticism.

Stoltenberg has managed to tread a fine line, refraining from criticizing members led by more go-it-alone presidents and prime ministers like former US President Donald Trump, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan or Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Two Pak college girls critically injured in shooting in Punjab province

PTI ■ LAHORE

Two female college students were critically injured after unknown car riders opened indiscriminate fire on their bus in the Punjab province of Pakistan, police said on Tuesday, while not ruling out the role of an "estranged lover" in the incident.

According to an FIR, over 20 female students of the Punjab College in Pattoki district were going to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on an excursion trip on Monday. The Pattoki district is around 80 km from Lahore, the provincial capital. "As the girls' bus entered Lahore (from Pattoki) en route to (Pakistan-occupied) Kashmir, it was chased by a car. The car riders opened indiscriminate fire on the bus, leaving two female students injured. The other girls, however, remained safe," the FIR said. Those injured were shifted to the Lahore General Hospital, where the condition of both girls was stated to be critical. A case has been registered against unidentified car riders for attempted murder, police officer Shrafat Ali told PTI. Police recorded the statements of the eyewitnesses, the bus driver and the students. Ali said the car riders came close to the bus and opened fire, which hit the two girls who were sitting in the back seats.

Apparently, an "estranged lover" was behind the incident, according to Ali. "However, we are investigating the matter from all aspects and will soon arrest the culprits," he added. Meanwhile, Punjab caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has ordered the Punjab police chief to ensure the arrest of the culprits at the earliest.

PTI to conduct intra-party elections within 20 days

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Former jailed prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party has agreed to conduct intra-party elections within the 20-day time frame set by the election commission to retain the 'bat' as its electoral symbol, according to a media report on Tuesday.

The decision by the core committee of the PTI comes days after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) ruled that its intra-party polls were not transparent, ordering the party to hold new elections if it wishes to retain its election symbol. The party was asked by the ECP to hold fresh elections within 20 days in a reserved verdict announced on November 23.

General elections are scheduled to be held in Pakistan on February 8. In the verdict, the ECP stated that the PTI failed to hold free and fair intra-party elections, adding that the polls

were objectionable and controversial.

"PTI's intra-party elections cannot be accepted," stated the verdict, directing it to hold polls and submit the record within seven days.

The party's Central Media Department said its members discussed crucial issues including the country's current political climate, the party's organisational activities, the ongoing treatment of PTI leaders and workers, and the intra-party polls during the core committee meeting.

The meeting also reiterated the demand for fool-proof security arrangements during former cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan's court appearance. A PTI spokesperson said that chairman Khan has an important message for the leaders and workers in his court appearance.

"The government's attempts to endanger the security, security and life of

Chairman Imran Khan in the past are not hidden from anyone. His safety and security is of utmost priority: millions of workers from across the country want to go to court to welcome their beloved leader," he claimed. Khan, being a former iconic international cricketer, is considered synonymous with the (cricket) bat, the PTI's election symbol.

The 71-year-old former prime minister is lodged in Adiala jail at Rawalpindi facing dozens of cases. In August, the election commission gave the PTI a final warning to hold the polls or it could be declared ineligible to obtain an election symbol. The PTI elections were due on June 13, 2021, under the party's Constitution but an extension was granted by the ECP. Finally, the party held the election on June 10, 2022, but the ECP rejected it, saying that the party had amended its Constitution two days before holding the polls.

Finland plans to close its entire border with Russia

AP ■ HELSINKI

Finland will close its last remaining road border with Russia due to concerns over migration, Prime Minister Petteri Orpo said on Tuesday, accusing Moscow of undermining Finland's national security. Finland already closed seven of its eight of the checkpoints along its long border with Russia this month following a surge in arrivals of migrants from the Middle East and

Africa. The government accuses Moscow of ushering the migrants toward the Finnish border.

"The government has decided to close the entire eastern border," Orpo told reporters, saying the country faced an "exceptional" situation. "We don't accept any close to undermine our national security," he said.

Finnish authorities say about 900 migrants crossed the border from Russia this month,

significantly more than normal. It has accused Russia of trying to create a migration crisis in Finland following the Nordic nation's entry into NATO this year. Interior Minister Mari Rantanen said the last border crossing for vehicle traffic that remains open, Raja-Jooseppi in Finland's Arctic north, would close at midnight on Wednesday. A railway crossing between the two countries remains open but for cargo traffic only.

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Baltic nations' FMs pull out of OSCE meeting over Russian foreign minister attendance

AP ■ SKOPJE

The foreign ministers of the three Baltic states have said they will boycott a meeting by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe being held this week in North Macedonia, in objection to the participation of Russia's foreign minister.

The foreign ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania issued a joint statement on Tuesday saying they "deeply regret the decision enabling the personal participation" of Russia's Sergey Lavrov. "It will only provide Russia with yet another propaganda opportunity," Lavrov said on Monday he planned to travel to Skopje for the OSCE foreign ministers' meeting, a trip which would mark his first visit to a NATO member country since Russia invaded Ukraine. In September, he was in New York to attend the United Nations' annual gathering of world leaders. The 57-nation OSCE was set up during the Cold War to help defuse tension between East and West. North

Macedonia currently holds the organisation's rotating presidency and its foreign minister invited Lavrov to the two-day meeting starting on Thursday.

"For the past two years we have witnessed how one OSCE participating state has actively and brutally tried to annihilate another," the Baltic foreign ministers said in their statement. "Let us be very clear: Russia's war of aggression and atrocities against its sovereign and peaceful neighbour Ukraine blatantly violate international law."

They also accused Russia of "obstructive behaviour within the OSCE itself," citing Russia's prevention of an OSCE presence in Ukraine and by blocking Estonia's chairmanship of the organisation in 2024. Lavrov's attendance at the Skopje meeting "risks legitimising aggressor Russia as a rightful member of our community of free nations, trivializing the atrocious crimes Russia has been committing," they added.

Speaking to reporters at NATO headquarters in Brussels on

Tuesday, North Macedonia's foreign minister, Bujar Osmani, said he believed he would be meeting Lavrov in Skopje. "Lavrov is not coming to Skopje, in a way, Lavrov is coming to the OSCE just as he went to (the) UN in New York a few months ago," Osmani said. "I won't be meeting him as the foreign minister of North Macedonia, but as the OSCE chairman in office." Asked what he would say to Lavrov, Osmani said: "I think the Russian Federation has violated (the) commitments of OSCE principles that we have voluntarily subscribed to 50 years ago."

"We have condemned the aggressor throughout our chairpersonship. And also we have turned (the) OSCE into a platform for political and legal accountability of the Russian Federation for its deeds in Ukraine, and we will continue to do so. And this is what I am going to tell to Mr. Lavrov as well."

There was no immediate reaction from the Russian Foreign Ministry to the statement by the three Baltic states.

SRF LIMITED

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E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No.	Lost Shares
1	L 0000792	LIPIKA GHOSH	976033	18573179-211	33
			1130899	310377110-429	320
			918816	2115501-25	25
			918817	2809462-69	8
			918818	4085083-98	16
2	A 0001576	ASHOK SATYAPRIYA LACHAKE	918819-23	15701154-236	93
			918824-28	23720946-1028	93
			918829-30	10377090-184	95
			1125413	308271606-925	320
			90106270-71	10182710-89	80
3	SRF0050436	ASHOK GAUR, ANJALI GAUR	33965	2265851-75	25
			54971	2812270-79	10
			95232	4088013-291	17
			449941-44	23724128-201	74
			90010764	6137574-613	40
4	A 0001943	ABDUL GHAFUOR KHAN	90150392-3	10380365-424	60

Any person having any claim/objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests. Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

for SRF LIMITED
Sd/-
RAJAT LAKHANPAL
Sr. VP (Corporate Compliance)
& Company Secretary
Place: Gurugram
Date: 28-11-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that upon the death of Mrs. Subhadra Singh, there are three legal heirs namely Satish Kumar Singh (Son), Mrs. Surman Prasad (Daughter) - Wife of Vinod Prasad & Mrs. Rekha Divan (Daughter) - Wife of Rajnish Divan. The above legal heirs of Mrs. Subhadra Singh, who died intestate, are selling the entire property C-36, DDA Flats, Golf View Apartment, Saket, New Delhi-110017 to the prospective buyers. If any persons have any objection or claim regarding the above said property, then they shall contact to the undersigned within 7 days of publishing of this Notice.
RAJIV VERMA
(Advocate)
E 153, Kamla Nagar, Delhi-110017

OK PLAY
NOK PLAY INDIA LIMITED
CIN No: L28219HR1988PLC030347
Regd. Office: 17-18, Roz-Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Teshil Nuh, District Mewat, Haryana - 122103
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NOTICE OF EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
NOTICE is hereby given that the Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the members of OK Play India Limited will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 10:30 AM, to transact the Special Business, as set out in the Notice of EGM. The venue of the said meeting shall be deemed to be the Registered Office of the Company at Plot No.17, Roz-Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Teshil-Nuh, District-Mewat, Haryana-122103.

The EGM is being convened in compliance with the applicable provisions of Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder read with General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020/General Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, General Circular No. 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, General Circular No. 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, General Circular No.39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, General Circular No. 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021, General Circular No. 20/2021 dated December 8, 2021, General Circular No. 3/2022 dated May 5, 2022, and General Circular No. 10/2022 dated December 28, 2022, (collectively "General Circulars") Issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (the "MCA") and Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) vide its circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020, circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD 2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021, circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022 and circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/POD-2/CIR/2023/6 dated January 5, 2023, (collectively "SEBI Circulars") have permitted holding of EGM without physical presence of the members at the venue through Video Conferencing (VC) or Other Audio-Visual Means (OAVM).

Members may further note that in pursuance of above stated circulars, the Members can attend and participate in the EGM through VC/OAVM only. Detailed instructions for joining the EGM are provided in the Notice of EGM. The Company has sent the Notice convening EGM on Tuesday, 28, 2023 through electronic mode to the Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company and/or Depositories in accordance with the Circular issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

As per the SEBI Circulars, no physical copies of the Notice of EGM will be sent to any Member. Members who have not yet registered their email addresses are requested to follow the process mentioned below for registering their email addresses to receive the Notice of the EGM electronically and to receive User ID and password for e-voting:

Physical: Please send ISRT, SH-13 and ISR-2 (if signature not matched with company record) to MAS Services Limited T-34 2nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Are, Phase-II, New Delhi 110020

Demat: Please contact your Depository Participant (DP) and register your email address as per the process advised by DP. Please also update your bank detail with your DP for dividend payment by NACH if declared by company.

Members may note that the Notice of the EGM is also available on the Company's website i.e. www.okplay.in, website of the Stock Exchange where the shares of the Company are listed, i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited at www.evoting.nsdl.com in due course of time. The above information is being issued for the information and benefit of all the members of the Company and is in compliance with the MCA Circulars and the SEBI Circulars issued from time to time.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Act and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended and Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and Secretarial Standard on General Meeting (SS-2), the Members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on all resolutions as set forth in the Notice convening the EGM using electronic voting system (e-voting) provided by NSDL. The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 (cut-off date). The remote e-voting period shall be available during the following period:

Commencement of remote e-voting period	Sunday, December 17, 2023 (9:00 AM)
Conclusion of remote e-voting period	Tuesday, December 19, 2023 (5:00 PM)

During this period, the Members may cast their vote electronically. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL thereafter. Those Members, who shall be present in the EGM through VC/OAVM facility and had not cast their votes on the Resolutions through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so shall be eligible to vote through e-voting system during the EGM.

The Members who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to the EGM may also attend/participate in the EGM through VC/OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their votes again.

Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and become a Member of the Company after the Notice has been sent electronically by the Company and holds shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request to helpdesk at evoting@nsdl.co.in. However, if he/she is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting, he/she can use his/her existing User ID and password for casting the votes.

In case of any queries of any queries pertaining to e-voting, members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and the e-voting manual available at www.evotingindia.nsdl.com, under help section or contact at toll free number 1800 1020 990/1800 224 430. In case of any grievances relating to e-voting, please contact at the designated email ID, evoting@nsdl.co.in. Mr. Puneet Kumar Pandey, Practising Company Secretary has been appointed as the Scrutinizer the remote e-voting process before/during the EGM in a fair and transparent manner.

The details of the EGM are available on the website of the Company at www.okplay.in NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com, BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com, For OK Play India Limited Sd/- Meenu Goswami Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place : New Delhi
Date : 28-11-2023

Govt disconnects 70 lakh mobile involved in financial frauds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To check digital frauds, the government has disconnected 70 lakh mobile numbers so far involved in cybercrime or financial frauds, Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi said on Tuesday. Emerging from a meeting to discuss issues related to financial cyber security and increasing digital payment fraud, Joshi, who chaired the meeting, said banks have been asked to strengthen the system and processes in this regard. More such meetings would take place, he said, adding the next meeting is scheduled in January. During the meeting, it was noted that 70 lakh mobile connections involved in cyber-crime/ financial frauds reported through digital intelligence platforms have been disconnected so far. About Rs 900 crore of defrauded money has been saved, benefiting 3.5 lakh victims, an official statement said. With regard to Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) fraud reported recently, he said states have been asked to look into the issue and ensure data protection.



He also said that there was a discussion with regard to KYC standardisation of merchants. The meeting chaired by the Financial Services Secretary also deliberated on how to ensure better coordination among various agencies to check cyber fraud. Joshi said there was a need to create awareness about cyber fraud in society to protect gullible customers from being duped. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs, made a presentation on the latest statistics of digital payment frauds as reported in the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP), various sources of these financial frauds, modus operandi adopted by the fraudsters, including challenges faced to counter financial cybercrimes, it said. Further, representatives from State Bank of India (SBI) made a brief presentation on the Proactive Risk Monitoring (PRM) strategy implemented by SBI. Besides, PayTM and Razorpay representatives also shared their best practices which have enabled them to mitigate such frauds, it said. The meeting was attended by senior officials of the Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Telecom, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and National Payments Corporation of India. The meeting took stock of the preparedness of the banks and other financial institutions in tackling the challenges arising from cyber security in the financial services sector, increasing trend of digital payment frauds, and deliberated on a focused approach to mitigate such cyberattacks and frauds, it said. Some of the issues deliberated in the meeting included a strategy to tackle the menace of mule accounts by banks and how banks can improve the response time in handling the alerts on online financial frauds received from different agencies. Appointment of regional/ state level nodal officers by the banks and financial institutions to cater to the requirements of law enforcement agencies and whitelisting of digital lending apps through consultation with relevant stakeholders were also discussed during the meeting. The meeting assumes significance in view of digital fraud witnessed by UCO Bank and Bank of Baroda in the recent past. Earlier this month, Kolkata-based public sector lender UCO Bank reported erroneous credit of Rs 820 crore to account holders of the bank via Immediate Payment Service (IMPS). During November 10-13, the bank observed that due to technical issues in IMPS, certain transaction(s) initiated by holders of other banks have resulted in credit to the account holders in UCO Bank without actual receipt of money from these banks. IMPS is a real-time inter-bank electronic funds transfer system without any intervention. The bank blocked the recipients' accounts and has been able to recover Rs 649 crore of the Rs 820 crore or about 79 per cent of the amount. The state-owned bank is yet to clarify whether this technical glitch was due to human error or a hacking attempt. However, the bank has reported the matter to the law enforcement agencies for necessary action.



'China slows, India grows': S&P pegs 7% growth for India by 2026

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's GDP growth rate will rise to 7 per cent by 2026 compared to 4.6 per cent for China, S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday. In a report titled 'China Slows, India Grows', S&P said it expects Asia-Pacific's growth engine to shift from China to South and Southeast Asia. "We project China's GDP growth to slow to 4.6 per cent in 2024 (2023: 5.4 per cent), edge up to 4.8 per cent in 2025, and return to 4.6 per cent in 2026. We see India reaching 7.0 per cent in 2026; Vietnam, 6.8 per cent (4.9 per cent); Philippines, 6.4 per cent (5.4 per cent); and Indonesia remaining steady at 5 per cent," S&P said. The US-based rating agency on Monday projected India's GDP to expand at 6.4 per cent in the current fiscal year and in the next. For 2025 it projected growth rate to rise to 6.9 per cent, followed by 7 per cent in 2026. S&P said with Asia-Pacific's central banks likely to keep interest rates high, the region's borrowers will see costlier debt servicing. "Concurrently, a widening conflict in the Middle East could drag global supply chains and raise energy costs, fanning inflation. High input costs dilute corporate margins, while high prices weaken demand," S&P said. Energy and demand shock risk, it said, adding Asia-Pacific's growth is susceptible to energy shocks (widening Middle East conflict) and slower global demand (risk of US. Hard landing). "We lowered our projection for the region's growth (ex-China) in 2024 from 4.4 per cent to 4.2 per cent. The prospects for industries also differ, with export-centric manufacturing faring worse," S&P said.



Cybersecurity, customer protection must for digital payments momentum: RBI paper

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Cybersecurity, customer protection, and cost-effectiveness are essential for sustaining the momentum towards digital payments pushed by the Covid pandemic, said Reserve Bank paper on Tuesday. The transactional use of cash has been on a decline and is increasingly getting substituted with digital modes of payments, even as the store-of-value role of cash remains intact, said the paper titled 'Cash versus Digital Payment Transactions in India: Decoding the Currency Demand Paradox'. In line with the global evidence, the pandemic led to a transitory uptick in currency demand in India driven primarily by precautionary and store-of-value motives. To sustain the momentum towards digital payments initiated by the pandemic, concerted efforts are needed to ensure the cost-effectiveness of payment modes and relevant acceptance infrastructure from both the demand (consumers) and



supply sides (merchants and intermediaries); and ensure universal access to enablers, such as smartphones and internet connectivity, it said. The paper authored by Sakshi Awasthy, Rekha Misra and Sarat Dhal, all associated with RBI's Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR), further said efforts are needed to bolster financial inclusion and literacy; and safeguard cybersecurity and customer protection. The authors further said that despite the traction observed in digital payments, cash persists due to a strong inclination of the populace to transact and save in cash. Moreover, cash serves as the de facto foundation for all types of payments. "It also plays a crucial role in facilitating transactions between the formal and informal sectors as well as with segments of the population that are financially excluded and lack digital awareness," the paper said. Furthermore, the usage and adoption of digital payments remain concentrated in regions characterised by higher levels of development, it added. "The success of digitalisation extends beyond mere cash substitution; it has broader implications for economic growth, development of financial markets, financial well-being of households, and effective governance," it said. Given the ongoing expansion of digital payments and the moderation in the growth of currency demand witnessed post-pandemic, the high cash usage observed during the pandemic may not translate into a permanent shift, the paper said.

Sebi for changes in regulatory framework for Special Situation Funds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi on Tuesday proposed changes in the regulatory framework for Special Situation Funds to facilitate the acquisition of stressed loans. Special Situation Funds (SSFs) are sub-category Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). In a consultation paper, Sebi suggested a definition of 'special situation assets', eligibility of investors in SSFs in terms of Insolvency law, restrictions concerning investment in connected entities, minimum holding period, subsequent transfer of loans, monitoring and supervision of such SSFs. The proposals have been floated after consultations with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which is the principal regulator for the sale and purchase of stressed loans in India. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought comments from the public on the consultation paper till December 27. To enable SSFs to acquire stressed loans, these funds need to be part of a RBI annexure pertaining to the transfer of loan exposure. In the consultation paper, the regulator has proposed amending AIF norms to make changes to the regulatory framework for SSFs. Under this, Sebi proposed a definition for a 'special situation asset' that includes securities of investee companies, whose stressed loans are acquired in terms of RBI Master Directions. Further, SSFs having prior investment in securities of

Rupee recovers from record lows

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Tuesday rebounded from record low levels, gaining 6 paise to settle at 83.34 against the US dollar amid positive sentiment in the equity markets and inflow of foreign funds. Forex traders said a weak American currency against major rivals and crude prices hovering close to USD 80 per barrel level also supported the Indian currency. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.37 and moved in the range of 83.32 to 83.39 against the greenback in intraday trade. It finally settled at 83.34 against the dollar, registering a gain of 6 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee settled at its all-time low of 83.40 against the American currency. The forex market was closed on Monday on account of Guru Nanak Jayanti. Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said: "Indian rupee started the week on a positive note as the greenback retreated against major currencies after weak US economic data. However, the month-end dollar demand has contained the gains in the rupee. He said the price action in



USD-INR remained muted and lacked direction. "In the short term, the pair has support at 83.20 and resistance at 83.50." "Rupee is expected to move in a range of 83.25 to 83.50 tomorrow (Wednesday). Market awaits for US consumer confidence and PCE price index, a data closely watched by (US) FED for inflation purpose, apart from US GDP this month," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.02 per cent lower at 103.18. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.18 per cent to USD 80.92 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex climbed 204.16 points, or 0.31 per cent, to settle at 66,174.20 points. The Nifty advanced 95.00 points, or 0.48 per cent, to 19,889.70 points. Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market on Tuesday as they purchased shares worth Rs 783.82 crore, according to exchange data. Also, the country's forex reserves increased by USD 5.077 billion to USD 595.397 billion during the week ended November 17, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

Mcap of BSE-listed firms hits record high of ₹331 lakh cr; just shy of entering USD 4-trn club

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The combined market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit an all-time high of Rs 331 lakh crore on Tuesday and is just shy of entering the landmark USD 4-trillion club. At the end of trade, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies reached Rs 3,31,05,425.71 crore, which translates to USD 3.97 trillion at the current exchange rate of 83.34, thanks to a fag-end recovery in the equity market after a highly volatile trade. On May 24, 2021, the market capitalisation of all listed companies on the BSE touched the USD 3-trillion mark. The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex hit its all-time peak of 67,927.23 on September 15, this year. While the BSE benchmark Sensex has rallied 5,333.46 points, or 8.76 per cent, so far this year, the market capitalisation (mcap) of all listed firms at its platform has jumped Rs 48.67 lakh crore. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 204.16 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 66,174.20 on Tuesday. "After last week's range-bound trend, markets registered gains



led by uptick in power, metal and auto stocks as hopes of strong growth momentum going ahead and receding worries of rate hikes in the US strengthened the mood," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd. "FIIs turning net buyers of local equities in the last few sessions too has brought some cheers to the market, even as caution could prevail in next few sessions ahead of monthly F&O expiry and exit poll results of five state elections later this week," Tapse said. Among the Sensex firms, Tata Motors, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Titan and Axis Bank were the major gainers. ITC, ICICI Bank, Power Grid and HDFC Bank were among the laggards. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.30 per cent while the smallcap index gained marginally by 0.06 per cent. Among the indices, utilities rallied 3.64 per cent, power jumped 3.47 per cent, oil & gas climbed 3.13 per cent, energy (2.27 per cent), services (2.02 per cent), commodities (1.27 per cent) and metal (1.13 per cent). FMCG, industrials, telecom-communication and capital goods were the laggards.

Ashneer says sorry, HC slaps ₹2 lakh fine over posts against BharatPe

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday imposed Rs 2 lakh as costs on BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover in the matter related to his alleged defamatory social media posts against the fintech company even as he tendered an apology for his conduct. Justice Rekha Palli took on record the apology and the undertaking given by Grover but proceeded to impose costs on him, saying the "court cannot be taken for granted". The judge, while dealing with a plea by Resilient Innovations Pvt Ltd - which owns BharatPe - against Grover, said the court was "appalled" to note the "per-

sistent" and "blatant" violation of the earlier orders and assurances given by Grover in this regard. The plea forms part of a lawsuit by Resilient Innovations against former managing director Grover and others. "Taking into account that defendant no 2 is now filing an affidavit specifically undertaking not to post any such defamatory posts in future and is also apologising for his past behaviour, this court is inclined to close the matter at this stage by binding the defendant no 2 to his undertaking. "This is, however, subject to a payment of costs of Rs 2 lakh," the court ordered. The court directed that the amount shall be paid to the high court's clerks' association. Senior advocate Akhil Sibal, appearing for the plaintiff, argued that in spite of court orders asking the parties not to make offending statements and Grover's undertaking to this effect, he was posting defamatory content against the fintech company on social media. The senior lawyer said that an earlier application by the plaintiff was also closed after an assurance was given by Grover who was now adopting a "shoot and scoot" strategy to publish his defamatory posts. He urged the court to issue an injunction order restraining Grover from posting such content. The counsel for Grover said he



was tendering an apology and undertaking to not post any offending posts in the future and the present plea may be disposed of. He also suggested that the matter may be placed for mediation. Last year, Resilient Innovations filed the lawsuit against its former MD Ashneer Grover and his family members to restrain them from making allegedly defamatory statements. The court had issued summons to Ashneer Grover, his wife and other defendants in the suit filed by the fintech firm which has accused the couple of misappropriating funds. Grover resigned from the company in March 2022 and his wife was removed from her post.

In the suit, besides seeking to restrain the defendants from making defamatory statements, the company has also sought the direction for payment of over Rs 88.67 crore along with interest towards the recovery of alleged misappropriated funds and damages caused to the reputation of the firm. The company has earlier claimed before the court that Grover, his wife and other relatives were carrying out a "vicious and vitriolic" campaign against the company which has a large number of foreign investors. Besides Grover and his wife, the company has arrayed as defendants Deepak Gupta, Suresh Jain and Shwetank Jain - all relatives of the couple who were

appointed in different posts in the company. As an interim relief, the company has sought a direction to the defendants to delete or remove within five days all statements, tweets, social media posts, books, re-tweets, hashtags, videos, press conferences, interviews and comments made against the firm. It also sought liberty to approach social media platforms, media houses, publications and others for deletion of such material. On May 16, the high court asked all parties to avoid recourse to unparliamentary and defamatory publications against each other. The lawsuit is listed for the next hearing on December 13.

RONALDO REJECTS PENALTY AWARDED IN ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



AP ■ RIYADH
Cristiano Ronaldo's honesty helped to nullify a penalty he was awarded as his 10-man Al-Nassr side held on to draw with Persepolis of Iran 0-0 in the Asian Champions League. Ronaldo went down in the box in the opening moments on Monday and the referee pointed to the spot, but Ronaldo joined Persepolis players in disputing the penalty. Referee Ma Ning checked the pitchside monitor and overturned his decision. Al-Nassr defender Ali Lajimi was sent off in the half for a dangerous challenge on Milad Sarlak, and Ronaldo gave his Saudi Arabia team a late scare when he exited with a neck injury. But Al-Nassr had already qualified for the knockout stages as the Group E winner and advanced unbeaten. The Riyadh team came into the game having won 18 of its previous 19 games in all competitions. In the same group, Qatar's Al-Duhail earned its first win after defeating Istiklol of Tajikistan 2-0. Prolific Kenyan striker Michael Olunga scored both goals. Earlier in Group C, Argentine coach Marcelo Gallardo picked up his first win since being appointed by Al-Ittihad this month after the Saudi Arabian champion defeated AGMK of Uzbekistan 2-1 to move into the knockout stages. Two goals in four first-half minutes from Moroccan striker Abderrazak Hamdallah gave Al-Ittihad the lead after Karim Benzema missed chances. Late in the game in Tashkent, Martin Boakye pulled a goal back for AGMK. "We had to work hard from the first whistle but we kept trying to get forward as much as we could and Hamdallah came good with two well-taken goals," Gallardo said. The top team from each of the 10 groups of four in the tournament, which is divided into two geographic halves until the final, advances to the round of 16 along with the six best-placed runners-up.



Barcelona looks to secure return to Champions League knockout stage

AP ■ MADRID
Barcelona will advance with a win, or with a draw if Shakhtar doesn't beat Antwerp in the other Group H match on Tuesday. The Catalan club failed to reach the knockout stage in the two seasons after Lionel Messi left the club. "There's always pressure at Barça," Xavi said. "It's always been like this and that won't change. You have to win at this club." Xavi said he feels the full support from the club despite the recent struggles. "We all believe in the project and there is total trust," he said. Barcelona has the same nine points as second-placed Porto, which is coming off a win against last-placed Antwerp. Shakhtar is third with six points. "We will be up against a highly technical team, with a coach in Xavi who has plenty of experience in this competition," Porto coach Sérgio Conceição said. "A victory would mean a great night for us, and we will need to be at our absolute best. There is always pressure, but we can use that pressure in a positive manner." Xavi could be without Marc-André ter Stegen because of a back injury. The goalkeeper did not practice with the rest of the group in training on Monday and is doubtful for Tuesday's match. "He will undergo tests before the match to check on the pain and see if he is 100% to play," Xavi said. The coach was certain to be without Gavi after the young playmaker sustained a serious knee injury while on duty with Spain. Xavi was not expected to rest anybody against Porto even though Barcelona at the weekend hosts Atletico Madrid in a match that could be crucial in the Spanish league. "In the last few matches we haven't played how we wanted," Barcelona defender João Cancelo said. "We have a chance now to play well and gain some confidence going forward."



India seek to open women's junior hockey WC campaign on winning note against Canada

PTI ■ SANTIAGO (CHILE)
India will look to take confidence from their past success against Canada when they meet each other in their opening match of the FIH women's junior hockey World Cup here on Wednesday. India had beaten Canada in all their previous three games. The Indian team, which had secured a fourth place in the 2022 edition, has been placed in a tricky Pool C, along with Germany, Belgium and Canada this time. Moreover, India's title triumph at the women's junior Asia Cup in Kakamigahara, Japan, earlier this year will boost their confidence. The Indians are aiming to secure their maiden women's junior World Cup title. India's best finish in the prestigious tournament came in 2013 when they finished third. "We are entering the tournament with determination and focus. Our team's preparation has been intense, and we're keen to translate that into our performance on the field," team captain Preeti said. "Playing against Canada in the opener is a chance for us to set the momentum for our campaign." Coach Tushar Khandker said the team was well-prepared for the tournament. "Our players have trained rigorously and are mentally prepared for the challenges ahead. We respect every opponent and are looking forward to a strong start against Canada," he said. The top-two finishers in each pool directly qualify for the quarterfinals. After Canada, India will face a formidable Germany on November 30, followed by a crucial encounter against Belgium on December 2. The quarter-finals, semi-finals and the final of the tournament will take place on December 6, 8 and 10 respectively.

Chauhan stuns India No. 1 Dhiraj to make men's recurve final

PTI ■ AYODHYA
Jharkhand's Mrinal Chauhan stunned India No 1 Dhiraj Bommadevara in the shoot-off to advance into the final of the men's recurve section at the ongoing Senior Nationals, here on Tuesday. From a tied 5-all, Chauhan stepped up in the shoot-off with a perfect to edge out the world No 15 Dhiraj by one point. The men's recurve final will be between Tushar Shelke of All India Police Sports Control Board and Chauhan. Atul Verma of Goa 6-4 in a one-sided final. On the other hand, Sangeeta set up a gold medal clash against Ridhi Phor in an all-Haryana gold medals clash in the women's recurve section. Amisha Chaurasiya of Uttar Pradesh clinched the bronze medal with a 6-2 win over Nikki Sharma of Rajasthan. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh and AIPSCB clinched the top honours in the men's and women's team events respectively in the Indian round. The gold medal winning men's team was represented by Shivam Vaidwan, Ujjwal Mudgal, Manish and Abhay Kumar Patel. Tutumoni Boro, Huidrom Rajpriyari Devi, Moirangthem Aruna Devi and Swati Maurya were part of the gold medal-winning women's team. AIPSCB also won the mixed team event with Arun and Tutumoni winning over their Assamese counterparts 6-0.

39-member core group named for hockey camp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Hockey India on Tuesday named a 39-member core group of players for the men's national camp to prepare for the upcoming five-nation tournament in Spain, even as head coach Craig Fulton seeks a "fresh perspective" for next year's Paris Olympics. The Indian men's hockey team, which qualified directly for Paris Olympics after winning the gold medal in the Hangzhou Asian Games, will feature in the five-nation tournament in Valencia starting from December 15. World champions Germany, France, Belgium and the hosts Spain are the other teams in the tournament. The men's national coaching camp begins at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centre in Bengaluru from Wednesday. "It was a long break from national camp after a successful outing in the Hangzhou Asian Games. Most of the players from the team played the National Championship in Chennai, and I too got a chance to watch some of the young and upcoming players closely," Fulton said. "We will now assemble in SAI, Bengaluru, with a fresh perspective to our preparations for the Paris Olympics. As I have maintained, it is a process and we will revisit our Asian Games campaign and understand how we can do better as a team and work towards that," Fulton added. The core group for the national camp has all the 18 players that won gold in the Asian Games last month. Team captain Harmanpreet Singh said, "The past few weeks were great, as we got to spend quality time with family and also had a great outing playing for our home state at the National Championship in Chennai. Now, we return to the camp yearning to be a better team." **List of players in the core-probable group:** **Goalkeepers:** Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Sreejesh Parattu Ravendran, Suraj Karkera, Pawan, Prashant Kumar Chauhan. **Defenders:** Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Gurinder Singh, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Sanjay, Yashdeep Siwach, Dipsan Tirkey, Manjeet. **Midfielders:** Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Moirangthem Rabi-chandra Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Sumit, Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Mohd Raheel Moussem, Maninder Singh. **Forwards:** S Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Akhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Simranjeet Singh, Shilananand Lakra, Pawan Rajbhar.

FULTON SEEKS 'FRESH PERSPECTIVE' FOR OLYMPICS PREPARATION



Thapa, Panghal make winning start in National Boxing Championships

PTI ■ SHILLONG
Six-time Asian Championships medalist SShiva Thapa (63.5kg) and World Championships silver medalist Amit Panghal (51kg) on Tuesday made a winning start to their campaign in the Men's National Boxing Championships here. Assam's Thapa, who was made to work hard for his 4-3 split decision win by Abhinash Jamwal from Himachal Pradesh, will now take on Haryana's Santosh HK in his round of 16 clash. Up against Shivaji from Maharashtra, SSCB's Panghal emerged a one-sided winner through a 5-0 unanimous decision. He will face Jayshandeep Singh from Punjab in the round of 16 match. Meanwhile, Tokyo Olympian Ashish Kumar (80kg) from Himachal Pradesh defeated Punjab's Arshdeep Singh and set up a pre-quarterfinals clash against Nitish Kumar from Chandigarh. Railway Sports Promotion Board's Govind Sahani (48kg), also an Asian Championships 2022 bronze medal winner, emerged victorious in his contest against Tripura's Sayan Lodh. Govind started with an aggressive approach and surprised his opponent who was caught off guard and could never really recover. Govind will now take on Vishal from Himachal Pradesh in pre-quarterfinals.



'Champions League prices best in Germany and worst in Scotland'

AP ■ NYON (SWITZERLAND)
When charging travelling fans for Champions League tickets, German clubs give the best value to away teams and Scottish clubs the worst. Celtic and Rangers routinely charged visiting fans 70 euros (USD 77) — the UEFA-mandated maximum for the away section at Champions League games — last season while Bayer Leverkusen asked for just 15 euros (USD 16.50), according to research published Tuesday by Football Supporters Europe. The FSE, UEFA's official fan liaison group, claimed safe standing areas for away fans at European games were key to driving down prices. The average cost for fans to stand was 28% lower than at Champions League games seated areas. The average price for an away ticket in the Champions League was 47 euros (USD 51.50) last season. Prices had peaked at 119 euros (USD 130) five years ago before the Union of European Football Associations capped the ticket price for away fans. German clubs had four of the five lowest average away prices. Bayern Munich was the exception of the five German teams in the 2022-23 competition. The FSE wants UEFA to keep up the pricing pressure next season when clubs are set to get more prize money and overall match revenue when the Champions League expands from 32 to 36 teams, with each playing eight games instead of six. It is FSE's firm position that clubs have a responsibility to reward the loyalty of travelling fans and to facilitate affordable pricing, especially considering the increase of revenue for all clubs." Football Supporters Europe Executive Director Ronan Evain said in a statement. The price cap for away fans in the Europa League last season was 45 euros (USD 49) and the average cost was 29 euros (USD 32).

Returning officer likely to take decision of WFI poll date on Wednesday: Ad hoc panel's Bajwa

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
A fresh date for Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) long-pending elections is likely to be announced on Wednesday after the Supreme Court set aside the stay imposed by Punjab and Haryana High Court, a member of the IOA-appointed ad hoc committee said. An SC bench of justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mishra on Tuesday vacated the stay of the high court. The ad-hoc panel appointed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had moved the apex court against the September 25 order of the HC. "I have spoken the returning officer appointed by the IOA to conduct the elections and he is waiting for the SC order. It is up to him to take a decision on when the election process will start again," ad hoc committee member Bhupender Singh Bajwa told PTI. "I think most probably, he (returning officer) will take the decision (on election date) by Wednesday," Bajwa said. "As far as the ad hoc committee is concerned, we are ready." The IOA had on April 27 appointed an ad-hoc committee to run wrestling following protests by seven wrestlers, including Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik and Asian Games gold medalist Vinesh Phogat, who alleged that WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh had sexually harassed female grapplers. The ad-hoc panel was supposed to hold elections within 45 days.



The world body UWW had on April 28 also warned that it could suspend WFI if the deadline to hold elections was not honoured. UWW carried out the threat by suspending WFI on August 24 for not conducting elections on time. Former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Mahesh Mittal Kumar was on June 12 appointed as returning officer to hold WFI elections. He had originally set July 11 as the date for the polls. But the Assam association moved the Gauhati High Court and succeeded in getting a stay on the polls on June 25. However, the Andhra state asso-

ciation challenged the decision in the Supreme Court which quashed the Gauhati High Court decision on July 18, paving the way for the conduct of the polls. The Returning officer then declared August 12 as the new poll date but a day before the elections, Punjab and Haryana High Court stayed the process on an application moved by Haryana Wrestling Association (HWA), which was led by Deepinder Singh Hooda before being suspended by WFI. HWA had challenged the move to allow Haryana Amateur Wrestling Association to cast votes in the WFI polls.

AUSTRALIA BEAT INDIA BY FIVE WICKETS

OZ reduce margin to 2-1 to stay alive in T20I series

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Glenn Maxwell's fiery unbeaten hundred carried Australia to a five-wicket win over India in the third T20I here on Tuesday. With this win, Australia managed to cut India's series lead to 2-1 in the five-match rubber. Maxwell made 104 off 48 balls (8x4, 8x6) as the Aussies went past India's 222 for 3 in the last ball of the match. Skipper Matthew Wade remained not out on a crucial 28 off 16 balls. Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi took two wickets for India. Earlier, Rituraj Gaikwad's maiden international hundred was the cornerstone of India's big total. Gaikwad made a rollicking unbeaten 123 off 57 balls. Rituraj Gaikwad displayed brute power and wonderful technique in equal measure with a maiden hundred that propelled India to a commanding 222 for 3 against Australia in the third T20 International here on Tuesday. Gaikwad slammed a career-best 123 not out off just 57 balls



with 13 fours and seven sixes, a first ton by an Indian batter against Australia in T20 Internationals. The 30 runs that Gaikwad took off Glenn Maxwell in the 20th over could prove to be a game-

changer. Skipper Matthew Wade's decision to give a part-time off-spinner 20th over of the innings backfired big-time. On a wicket that had some extra bounce and swing, India had a

shaky start losing their both their in-form batters Yashasvi Jaiswal (6) and Ishan Kishan (0) cheaply after Matthew Wade opted to bowl to make use of the dewy conditions. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav (39;

29b) looked set for a big knock with two sixes and five boundaries before debutant pacer Aaron Hardie dismissed him with a short ball just after the halfway mark. With run-rate not an issue --

eight per over -- they needed someone to anchor their innings, and the Indian vice-captain Gaikwad played the role to perfection. From 13 off 15 balls, the right-hander with orthodox technique, who often drew flak for his slow starts, switched gears after Surya's dismissal, displaying the wide array of shots in his repertoire. His knock was not just about classical drives in the V but also a testament to his brute power. He packed a lot of punch in his pulls and an inside-out maximums. It was a different Gaikwad on display during last six overs. Once he got his first 50 off 32 balls, he then went berserk, taking another 20 to bring up his maiden triple digit score in the last over of Maxwell. Gaikwad muscled Maxwell over wide long to to bring up his century with a six as he smashed two more in the same over that yielded 30 runs as India amassed 200-plus totals in each of the three T20Is so far. **Brief scores:** India: 222 for 3 in 20 overs (Rituraj Gaikwad 123 not out, Suryakumar Yadav 39, Tilak Varma 31 not out; Jason Behrendorff 1/12) lost to Australia: 225 for 5 in 20 overs (Glenn Maxwell 104 not out, Matthew Wade 28 not out, Ravi Bishnoi 2/32) by 5 wickets.



When Kohli's wicket fell, stadium was quiet like library: Cummins

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian captain Pat Cummins couldn't believe his ears when he found a near 100,000 people at Narendra Modi Stadium go pin-drop silent after Virat Kohli's dismissal giving the vibe of a "quiet library" during the World Cup final against India. Australia won their sixth title beating India by six wickets but many believe that Cummins getting India's No. 1 batter played on, became the turning point of the match. "We're in a huddle after the wicket of Kohli in the final & (Steve) Smith says, 'Boys, listen to the crowd.' And we just took a moment of pause, and it was as quiet as a library, 100,000-plus Indians there & it was so quiet. I'll savour that moment for a long time," Cummins told 'The Age' during an interaction. Late, he spoke to reporters and said that to hold the Trophy, it took a lot out of him and his team. "To hold one trophy takes a lot. But, to hold them across formats really shows our amazing coaching group and also the squad of players," Cummins told reporters here on Tuesday during a World Cup event. "You can't do that with 11 players. You need 25 really good players. So, it shows the strength of Australian cricket at the moment and the appetite of the guys to compete whenever they play." "Everything takes a lot out of you, but the guys keep rocking

up and performing, which is as pleasing as anything else." **WORDS LIKE REST AND ROTATIONS GET THROWN AROUND:** Workload management might be in vogue in world cricket for past few years but Cummins believes that words like "rest" and "rotation" are loosely thrown around when reality is nobody likes to miss a Test if he is fully fit. Cummins, who has led the Australian team to World Test Championship and ODI World Cup glory in 2023, said that despite a long season, his unit is raring to go during the coming Australian Summer which starts with Test series against Pakistan on December 14. "Realistically, the word rest and rotated gets thrown around a lot, but you never miss a Test if you are fully fit." "While over the last couple of years, we might have been rested from the odd game, the bulk of work we've been able to do is because of those small gaps. If we are fully fit, we won't be resting." He recalled that as pacers, the players are bound to feel some niggles somewhere or the other but they should not be bogged down by it. "You are always dealing with something as a bowler. When your hamstring starts to feel, then you feel a pain somewhere else, then you wake up the next day, and it's moved somewhere else," Cummins continued. Currently, a second-string Aussie squad is currently competing in a five-match T20I series in India.



NZ offspinner Phillips takes 4 wickets to reduce Bangladesh to 310-9 after Mahmudul's 86

AP ■ SYLHET (BANGLADESH)

Offspinner Glenn Phillips claimed 4-37 in only his second match as New Zealand reduced Bangladesh to 310-9 on day one of the opening test on Tuesday. Phillips' haul helped the visitors gain an edge after Bangladesh won the toss and opted to bat first on a pitch ideal for batting. Bangladesh made a good start with opener Mahmudul Hasan playing serenely to put the side in the driving seat in the first session but his teammates' rash shots undermined his effort. Mahmudul made a team-best 86 off 166 balls with 11 boundaries. He shared stands of 39 for the first wicket with Zakir Hasan and 53 for the second with Najmul Hossain Shanto as Bangladesh made steady progress. Shanto, who led the home team in the absence of Shakib Al Hasan, was dismissed just before lunch after playing an attacking 37 off 35 deliveries. He was particularly harsh on left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel (2-76), hitting him for three sixes to entertain the sparse crowd. Patel, one of only three bowlers ever to take 10 wickets in a single test innings, gave the visitors an early breakthrough when he dismissed Zakir Hasan for 12 in the 13th over with a delivery that turned sharply to rattle the stumps. Shanto targeted Patel and opened with a six over mid-on.

And he used his feet effectively to dominate New Zealand's other spinners — Ish Sodhi and Glenn Phillips. But he paid for his aggressive batting when he charged a full toss from Phillips and skied a catch to Kane Williamson in the deep, making the score 92-2. Mahmudul and Mominul dug in to defy the New Zealand bowlers who were relentless in attack and Mahmudul raised his fourth test fifty, driving Patel for a boundary through cover off 93 balls. As the innings seemed to turn in Bangladesh's favour, Phillips made the crucial breakthrough when Mominul's attempted cut resulted in a catch behind the wicket, ending the 88-run partnership. Mominul scored 37 off 78 with four fours. Mahmudul fell in the next over. After playing with soft hands throughout his stay, he went after legspinner Shodi, only to be caught by Daryl Mitchell at slip. With Bangladesh at 184-4, the onus was on veteran Mushfiqur Rahim to lead the side but he needlessly charged Patel to be caught by Williamson at deep mid-off for 12. Debutant Shahadat Hossain appeared to be solid against the spinners but the rash shots of Mehidy Hasan against pacer Kyle Jamieson (2-52), further deepened Bangladesh's crisis. Shahadat was undone by a slower delivery from Phillips as he chipped straight to short mid-wicket after adding 24.

PCB in deadlock with ACC on compensation for flights during Asia Cup

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was on Tuesday caught in a deadlock with the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) for demanding additional compensation on organising chartered flights between Pakistan and Sri Lanka during the Asia Cup, which it co-hosted in August-September. The Asia Cup 2023 was organised in a hybrid model in Pakistan and Sri Lanka after the ACC accepted PCB's hybrid model, with majority of the matches organised in the island nation. A reliable source in the PCB informed PTI that apart from seeking the tournament hosting fees - around \$250,000 - as well as shares from ticketing and sponsorship fees, they have also demanded additional compensation. The source said, "The additional money is for expenses

incurred on renting chartered flights for teams between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and other extra expenses like additional hotel and transport fees, which were not included in the initial budget for the Asia Cup." The source, however, informed that the ACC is not willing to pay additional expenses to the PCB since it believes that Pakistan had agreed for matches to be held in Sri Lanka under its hybrid model, in return for hosting four games of the Asia Cup at home. A Sri Lanka-based company named Classic Travel was paid \$281,000 for arranging four chartered flights to and fro between Pakistan and the island nation - something that PCB's Cricket Management Committee (CMC) was not comfortable paying upfront as advance. The tournament was moved to a hybrid model after India refused to play in Pakistan citing security reasons.

Fans to get free entry for India women's cricket team's matches in Mumbai

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Fans have been spared the hassle of running around for match tickets during Indian women's cricket team's upcoming fixtures against England and Australia at the Wankhede Stadium and DY Patil Stadium as the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) on Tuesday made the entry free for all those matches. The cricket fest here will start with India Women's A team taking on their England counterparts in a three-match T20 series from Wednesday, with all matches to be played at the Wankhede Stadium on November 29, December 1 and 3 from 1:30pm. India women's senior team will then take on England in a three-match T20I series starting on December 6, and the second and third match will be played on December 9 and 10 respectively at the Wankhede Stadium. These games will have a 7:00pm start.

"MCA president Amol Kale and the apex council unanimously passed the decision to encourage support for women's cricket," said secretary Ajinkya Naik. "Unlocking the gates for free entry not only fills the stadium but also opens the door to a world of empowerment through women's T20 cricket," added Naik. India and England will then engage in a one-off Test to be played at the DY Patil from December 14-17. India will begin their home series against the Australian Women's team with a one-off Test to be played at the Wankhede Stadium from December 21 to 24, followed by a three-match ODI series. While the first ODI will be played on December 28, the second will be on December 30 and the third ODI will be on January 2, 2024 with the Wankhede Stadium serving as the host for all these matches, starting at 1:30pm.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A promising bunch of India Women's 'A' players will look to utilise the most of the opportunity when they face their counterparts from England in a three-match T20 series, starting here on Wednesday. The second and third matches will be played on December 1 and 3. All the three matches will be held at the Wankhede Stadium here. The three matches between the 'A' sides of India and England will be followed by a three-match T20I series and a one-off Test between the senior women's teams of the two countries. All the matches between the seniors sides will also be held in Mumbai, beginning with the first T20I on December 6. It is, in fact, going to be a busy season for the Indian women cricketers. The contests against

India Women's A team looks to utilise most of opportunity against England counterparts

the Englishwomen will be followed by a long tour of Australia women to India, comprising a one-off Test, three ODIs and three T20Is. With the India women's senior squad yet to be announced, the 16-member India A side, led by Kerala's Minnu Mani, will have extra motivation to do well in order to push for their selection in the senior team. The 24-year-old all-rounder Mani has been given a huge responsibility, considering that she only made her international debut four months ago during India's tour of Bangladesh in July.



Mani also played for Delhi Capitals in the inaugural Women's Premier League. The focus will also be on future

India prospect, Karnataka's Shreyanka Patil who had a promising run in the WPL earlier this year and also became the

first Indian player ever to sign up for the Women's Caribbean Premier League. Among those to watch out for will be the young and dashing Punjab batter Kanika Ahuja, who delivered an all-round show — 30 runs and two wickets — in the final of the ACC's Women's Emerging Teams Cup. Mannat Kashyap's progress as a young off-spinner will also be under watch and among batters, the likes of G Trisha, Dinesh Vrinda and Gnanananda Divya will be expected to deliver the goods. While the visiting England A are yet to announce their squad for

the series against India A, they are coming here after a training camp in Oman. Among those who featured in the camp were exciting young fast bowler Mahika Gaur, Charlie Dean and Lauren Filer, who took a handful of wickets for England against Sri Lanka in their recent series. **India Women's A:** Minnu Mani (c), Kanika Ahuja, Uma Chetry (wk), Shreyanka Patil, G Trisha, Vrinda, Dinesh, Gnanananda Divya, Arushi Goel, Disha Kasat, Rashi Kanojia, Mannat Kashyap, Anusha Bareddy, Monica Patel, Kashavee Gautham, Jintimani Kalita, Prakashika Naik.

Don't keep so much hopes that people end up with broken hearts: Kapil

PTI ■ GURUGRAM

Excess hype often leads to broken hearts and hence it is always necessary to strike a balance, legendary Kapil Dev said on Tuesday in context of India's six-wicket defeat at the hands of Australia in the World Cup final earlier this month. The 1983 World Cup winning skipper said that the Indian fans should refrain from creating too much pressure and treat cricket just as another sport. "Don't keep so much hopes that people end up with broken hearts. We need to keep a balance. Other teams also came to India to compete in the World Cup. We shouldn't create so much hype. We need to look at sports

as sports only. Whoever plays good on the day, we need to respect that. We are too emotional," Kapil said on the sidelines of the inaugural tee off ceremony of Kapil Dev Grant Thornton Invitational golf tournament here. India won 10 games, most of which were lopsided as contests, before Australia turned the tables on them at the Narendra Modi Stadium on November 19. For past 10 years, India have lost seven knock-out games out of eight ICC tournaments that they took part between 2014 to 2023. Kapil doesn't know if the pressure of occasion gets to them. "I think today's players can answer

how much pressure they feel. We can only feel," he said. However there are shortcomings which needs to be taken care of, Kapil stated, without specifying what they were. "If they (India) win it feels really good. There are shortcomings which we need to address. It is not that you won't have shortcomings after a win. What's most important is to rectify them," the 63-year-old said. He urged fans to celebrate what India achieved rather than what they missed out. "They (India) won 10 matches in a row. Is it not enough? We should look at other teams as well. We shouldn't compare anyone. What is important is to see whether they played good cricket or not. We



played very good cricket. Final day was not ours so be it," the 1983-World Cup-winning captain added. Kapil cited the examples of South Africa and defending champions England to prove his point. "We should look at performance of other teams as well like, South Africa, England who were the defending champions, they finished last (seventh)." Kapil also lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gesture to visit the Indian dressing room and console the players after the final loss in Ahmedabad on November 19. "If the Prime Minister doesn't encourage, who will? He is the No.1 man in the country and if he supports, it feels

good," he said. The former all-rounder also refrained from commenting on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's future in T20 Internationals. "This is selectors job and we should leave it to them. It is not good to comment on everything. They are responsible and what they feel good, they should do," he said. The second edition of the Kapil Dev Grant Thornton Invitational golf tournament, sanctioned by Professional Golf Tour of India, will have prize purse of Rs 2 crore this year, double the amount from last year. Title holder Varun Parikh will try to defend his title in the tournament

beginning on Wednesday at the DLF Golf and Country Club here. Kapil said some former cricketers including Murali Karthik, Madan Lal, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh are expected to be present on the final day of the event on December 3. He also said he would request Sachin Tendulkar to grace the occasion. "Already the prize money has been doubled. It feels good that some former cricketers will be coming for the event. Why can't cricketers play other sports? "If we can support other sport apart from cricket, why not? In India, there is not just one game," said the man, who has been an amateur golfer since his retirement.