



OPINION 6
MYANMAR: INDIA'S
STRATEGIC DILEMMA

WORLD 8
IMRAN, WIFE SENTENCED TO
14 YEARS IN PRISON

BUSINESS 10
IMPORT DUTY ON MOBILE PARTS
CUT TO 10 PER CENT

BHOPAL, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹1.50

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



BE PATIENT WITH
LIKES OF GILL,
IYER: RATHOUR
11 SPORTS

ED takes Hemant Soren into Custody

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI / RANCHI

The 72-hour-long drama between Jharkhand and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) came to an end late on Wednesday evening with the arrest of the "absconding" JMM leader Hemant Soren. Sources claimed JMM leader was "evasive" in his replies during his questioning and hence was taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The sources said the agency put across 15 questions to Hemant during the second round of questioning in the case. He had to resign as Chief Minister, followed by the probable appointment of the seniormost MLA and State Transport Minister, Champai Soren, to step into his shoes and take up the reins of the JMM-Congress, RJD coalition government. As of the filing of reports, JMM spokesperson Mahua Majhi said that Soren had been taken into custody by the ED. Cabinet Minister Banna Gupta shared with the media that Champai would take over as the new Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Speculation is rife that someone from Hemant's family, including wife Kalpana (who is not an MLA), could be named to lead the State. Hemant Soren is the first sitting Chief Minister to be arrested in a corruption case.

Along with ED officials, Hemant went to Raj Bhawan to meet Jharkhand Governor CP Radhakrishnan and submitted his resignation from the post of chief minister. Sources suggest that Hemant wanted to be arrested in his home State to garner sympathy from the people during the Lok Sabha elections. A delegation of the JMM-led coalition also met the Governor and submitted a list of support from 47 MLAs, claiming their backing to form the government. Later, Champai Soren said he has staked a claim to form a new government and have the support of 47 MLAs. Champai has been a legislator from the Serikela Assembly constituency for more than three decades since 1991 and is known to be a loyalist of JMM supremo Shibu Soren. Earlier, legislators gathered at Hemant Soren's residence elected Champai as the leader of the JMM legislative party, with the party spokesperson Vinod Pandey saying that a consensus was reached on his name. Amid hectic political activities, JMM coalition MLAs gathered at the Chief Minister's residence earlier in the day to express their solidarity with their leader. They also signed a letter of support without any name, as speculation is rife that Hemant's wife will be handed

CHAMPAI SOREN CM DESIGNATE IN JHARKHAND



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren gestures as he leaves from his residence for Raj Bhavan in Ranchi on Wednesday

PTI

over the reins. Soren's wife, Kalpana Soren, who is not an MLA, was also present at the meeting. By-elections cannot be held in the last year of any Assembly's term, so Kalpana Soren could not have been elected an MLA even if she was named the Chief Minister. Reports were also circulating that Soren's family, including his sister-in-law and JMM

MLA Sita Soren (widow of Durga Soren), and Basant Soren, openly oppose any move to make his wife Kalpana the chief minister. Sita Soren represents the Jama constituency in the Assembly and told the media that she would like to ask why only Kalpana Soren, who is not even an MLA and has no political experience. Insiders say that when a

consensus could not be reached on Kalpana Soren as the next chief minister, the party decided to elect Champai Soren as the new chief minister. Party spokesperson Vinod Pandey said that a general consensus was reached on Champai Soren. ED sources reported that the officers of the ED reached the CM's residence in Ranchi

around 1:20 pm to record his statement. The agency was not satisfied with the answers provided by the chief minister. Soren had skipped the 10th summons before his arrest in connection with an investigation into a "huge racket of illegal change of land ownership by the mafia" in Jharkhand. Simultaneously, Soren also lodged an FIR against ED

personnel over searches conducted by the agency at his Delhi residence on Monday, officials said. Soren alleged that the ED conducted the search to "harass and malign him and his entire community," the officials said, quoting the FIR. Ahead of the scheduled questioning, the ED wrote to the Jharkhand government, seeking extra security. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC, which were earlier effective from 9 am to 10 pm on Wednesday, have now been extended until further notice within a radius of 100 metres at key locations, including the CM House, Raj Bhavan, and the ED office at Doranda. As part of the restrictions, demonstrations, rallies, and meetings cannot be held in and around these areas. The three-member special team was led by finance secretary Prashant Kumar and included mines director Arva Rajkamal and special branch IG Prabhat Kumar. ED officials had reached the CM's residence in Ranchi around 1:20 pm to record his statement. Meanwhile, eyewitnesses said three tourist buses entered Soren's house on Kanke Road around 5:30 pm amid hectic activities. Soon after that, Chief Secretary L Kiangte and DGP Ajay Kumar Singh met Soren's wife, Kalpana Soren. Earlier in the day, Soren lodged an FIR

against senior ED personnel at the SC/ST police station here over searches conducted by the agency at his Delhi residence, officials said. The ED has, so far, arrested 14 people in the case, including the 2011-batch IAS officer Chhavi Ranjan, who served as the director of the State's social welfare department and deputy commissioner of Ranchi. Earlier, the ED had recorded his statement on January 20 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Hemant was taken into custody in connection with an alleged land scam, minutes after meeting the governor and handing in his resignation. Sources said he had discussed the matter with the officials, declaring that he would sign the arrest memo only after stepping down. The ED officials then took him to meet the Governor. A Chief Minister can be arrested under the anti-money laundering rules if he evades summons thrice. Soren, after evading the Enforcement Directorate over the weekend, had agreed to be questioned by the Central agency this afternoon. His statement was recorded during the questioning. Soren, who had evaded seven summons for questioning in an alleged money laundering case linked to the Rs 600 crore land scam, was anticipating arrest for a while.

Introspect, none remembers disruptors, urges PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Wednesday that the country is reaching new heights of progress, and its journey of "all-inclusive and all-round" development will continue with the people's blessings. In his customary remarks to the media before the Budget Session, Modi greeted them with "Ram Ram" (an invocation of Lord Ram) and noted that there is a tradition of not presenting a full Budget before the polls. "We will follow the same tradition and present a full-fledged budget before you after a new government is formed," he said, adding that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will, in her Budget to be tabled on Thursday, introduce measures showing a direction. Modi has frequently expressed confidence that his government will retain power in the elections. Ahead of Parliament's last session before the Lok Sabha polls, the PM took aim at Opposition MPs for disrupting parliamentary proceedings, saying those habituated to creating a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the media on the first day of the Budget session of Parliament on Wednesday. Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Jitendra Singh and V Muraleedharan are also seen

PTI

ruckus and disrobing democratic values should introspect as they meet in the last session before the polls. "If these MPs inquire even in

their own parliamentary constituencies, they will find that no one remembers those behind such ruckus and disruptions," Modi said.

President Murmu celebrates the rise of New Bharat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday hailed the Modi Government's big-ticket reforms in the last 10 years and mentioned that the centuries-old desire to build a Ram temple in Ayodhya has now become a reality, while apprehensions over the abrogation of Article 370 are a thing of the past. In her first address to a joint sitting of the two Houses in the new Parliament building, during which she touched on varied issues ranging from insurgency to inflation, Murmu said a country can progress at a fast pace only when it defeats the challenges of the past and puts maximum energy into building the future. Murmu arrived in a buggy at Parliament House to deliver her address to the joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. She entered the House with the "sengol" being carried in front of her. She asserted that the armed forces were giving a befitting reply to terrorism and expansionism. Murmu also mentioned that India is now a prominent voice against terrorism in the world.



President Droupadi Murmu addresses the joint session of Parliament on the opening day of the Budget session, in New Delhi

PTI

The government, she said, believes that the grand edifice of a developed India will stand on the four strong pillars of youth power, women power, farmers, and the poor. "In the last 10 years, the country has witnessed the completion of projects for which the people had waited for decades. There was a desire for building the Ram Mandir for centuries, and today it has become a reality,"

she said to thumping desks from the treasury benches. "In cultural history, there are some milestones that decide the future of centuries. In India's history also, there have been numerous such milestones. On January 22, the country witnessed one such milestone. After a centuries-long wait, Ram Lalla now resides in a grand temple in Ayodhya," she said. She said there were apprehensions over the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir "but they have become history now." There is an environment of peace and security in Jammu & Kashmir, with vibrancy in markets instead of the "silence of shutdowns" witnessed in the past, the President said. Incidents of insurgency have gone down in the Northeast, she asserted. The government has also established strict laws against triple talaq, she said. She also mentioned that the Indian economy, which used to be among the "fragile five", is now moving in the right direction and at the right pace due to several reforms undertaken by the government in the last 10 years.



Fog, rain disrupt travel in north India

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Parts of northern India remained shrouded in dense fog for the third consecutive day, with zero visibility in the morning hours, leading to disruptions and delays in road, rail, and flight services. The much-needed incessant rain, the first of the season, in the afternoon aggravated foggy conditions further in northern India, including Delhi and the NCR. Due to almost zero visibility, traveller and daily commuters faced a harrowing time traveling from one place to another. As many as 250 flights were delayed at Indira

Gandhi International Airport, with at least three flights being diverted, as the disruption index went up to 3.0, according to the flight tracker information system. Massive chaos erupted at Delhi airport on Wednesday as passengers staged a protest and raised slogans against IndiGo airline after it cancelled a Deoghar-bound flight. The flight was scheduled to take off from Delhi airport's Terminal 2. Delhi received 8.5 mm of rainfall on Wednesday as the national Capital witnessed incessant rainfall accompanied by gusty winds with speeds of up to 30-40 kmph.

Five new wetlands earn Ramsar tag, total rises to 80

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Five more wetlands in India, recognised as nature's kidneys for their water-regulating and waste-filtering capabilities, have received the international designation of Ramsar sites, bringing the country's total to 80. The inclusion of these sanctuaries expands the Ramsar-designated areas to cover a vast expanse of 1.33 million hectares. An announcement in this regard was made on the eve of World Wetland Day by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, who highlighted the theme of World Wetland Day 2024: Wetlands and Human Wellbeing. The government

plans to observe the day at Sirpur Lake in Indore. Certificates for these waterlogged ecosystems were presented by Dr Musonda Mumba, Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention, in the presence of Union Environment Secretary Leena Nandan, Jitendra Kumar (DG Forest), and Dr Sujit Kumar Bajpayee (Joint Secretary Wetlands, National Focal Point for the Ramsar Convention). With the addition of more wetlands, Tamil Nadu now boasts the highest number of Ramsar Sites (16 sites), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10 sites). The Ramsar Convention established in 1971, aims to globally protect wetlands. Activities such as

encroachment, industrial development, waste dumping, and poaching are strictly prohibited within these designated areas. An official from the Ministry provided insights into the ecological importance of the newly designated sites. Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, a human-made Village Irrigation Tank, is rich in biodiversity, hosting various plant and animal species. The Aghanashini Estuary, formed at the confluence of the Aghanashini River and the Arabian Sea, provides diverse ecosystem services and supports a significant population of waterbirds. Additionally, the mangroves



Karaivetti bird sanctuary in Tamil Nadu

bordering the estuary help protect the shores against storms and cyclones. Similarly, the Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve, initially constructed for rainwater storage, is now home to a variety of bird species, including vulnerable and near-threatened species. The Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, one of Tamil Nadu's largest inland wetlands, serves as a crucial source of groundwater recharge and supports diverse agricultural activities. The Longwood Shola Reserve Forest wetlands provide habitats for globally endangered and vulnerable bird species, making them integral to the Western Ghats and harboring a significant number of endemic bird

species. These wetlands serve as habitats for the globally endangered Black-chinned Nilgiri Laughing thrush, Nilgiri Blue Robin, and vulnerable Nilgiri Wood-pigeon. A total of 14 out of 26 endemic bird species of the Western Ghats are found in these wetlands. The convention to protect wetlands was signed in Ramsar in 1971. Wetlands play a crucial role in flood control, providing water, food, and supporting biodiversity. The global Ramsar list currently includes over 2,500 sites identified by member countries for their ecological services and biodiversity value.

Universities should churn out great human beings: Guv

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the university should develop great human beings. The objective of the National Education Policy is to expand knowledge as well as to create great human beings. He anticipated that the universities should inculcate moral values, cultural traditions, values and qualities of practical life along with knowledge and science, in students in higher education. Governor Patel was addressing the 101st meeting of the University Coordination Committee held at Sandipani Auditorium of Raj Bhavan. Higher Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar was also present on this occasion. Governor Patel said that inclusion of human values in university courses is essential. The



ultimate objective of education is to create dedicated, sensitive and hardworking citizens. It is important to understand that mere knowledge, science and technological development is not holistic education. It is also important for students to be aware and active towards social concerns like social harmony, environmental consciousness and women empowerment. He

said that it is the responsibility of the universities to educate students on the values of our glorious cultural traditions and heritage so that they can progress in their future life and stay connected to the roots of our culture. Governor Patel said that students generally pursue studies for 4 to 5 years in universities. In this period, the university plays a very crucial role in developing the

personality of a student. The university should inculcate in the students the qualities of working towards the welfare of deprived sections of the society, their participation in social concerns, spirit of service towards the society, nation and sensitivity. He said that sensitivity which is a fundamental element of human nature needs to be awakened. The university should make efforts to inculcate a sense of reverence in the youth towards their parents. Governor Patel said that good health is the basis of all happiness in life. It is important to develop nutritious eating habits among the students. Encourage them to consume food, exercise and follow a regular lifestyle. Higher Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar emphasized on the need to consider the proposal presented before the coordina-

tion committee regarding the conduct of employment-oriented courses in universities through a sub-committee. Decision was taken in the meeting that all private and government universities should register in 12-B of UGC. Eligible universities should apply for NAAC grading for the session 2024-25. The newly established university must compulsorily submit the application within one year of completion of the prescribed period of 6 years. The minutes of the 100th Coordination Committee meeting were confirmed in the meeting. Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education KC Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Governor Sanjay Shukla, Higher Education Commissioner Nishant Varwade, Vice Chancellors of government and private universities were present.



Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel gives an award to the NCC cadets for their excellency in the at home programme of National Cadet Corps Directorate Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, at Raj Bhawan in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Youth dies in police custody, locals protest

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Family members and locals protested after the death of a youth living in Kolar area during treatment in police custody. The police took him away from home on Monday evening. Three hours later, the ambulance driver informed the family about his critical condition. After the incident, angry family members protested at the Kolar police station. A judicial inquiry is being ordered into the case. After creating ruckus, police force was deployed. The family members are demanding to register of a case of murder against the Asha worker and her husband along with both the policemen. People also raised slogans against the police. Police said that while being taken to the police station on

Monday, the youth tried to run away and jumped from the vehicle. He was injured after falling from a moving vehicle. After this he was admitted to Jaypee Hospital. The family members had reached the hospital. On Tuesday the youth was admitted to Hamidia Hospital. From here, on the request of his family members, he was shifted to a private hospital at night. Where he died in the night. Deceased's brother Padam Singh Lodhi told that his younger brother Mukesh (45), resident of Amravd Khurd police station, lived in Kolar area. He used to do farming work. On Monday evening, an Asha worker living in the locality was distributing mosquito nets. Mukesh's wife had come to buy a mosquito net. Where the Asha worker demanded him to give Rs 200 she asked the reason for asking for the money, and argued with her and when

Mukesh talked to Asha, she started misbehaving. After which she also called her husband Bhagwandas Sahu. After arrival, the husband argued with Mukesh, a scuffle broke out between the two. After this, Bhagwandas called the police by dialing 100. Rajkumar and Gopal of Kolar police came and took Mukesh sit in the vehicle and the Asha worker and her husband also sat along with him. No information was received regarding the brother for three hours. After this the ambulance driver called and informed that Mukesh was found in an injured condition. When JP reached the hospital, brother's condition was very critical. There was a scar behind his temple. Police said he had jumped from the vehicle. We suspect that he was beaten by the police. Jumping would have caused injury marks on other parts of the body.

CBI team reaches BMHRC seeks info

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Central Bureau of India (CBI) reached the premises of the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC) in Bhopal on Wednesday. Official source said that a team of 20 officials reached the hospital premises in the morning and conducted the enquiry. It was told that there were some complaints regarding irregularities in the purchases. The enquiry process continued till late evening. Most of the time, the CBI officials remained in the office of the BMHRC Director Manisha Shrivastava. Dr Shrivastava told that the CBI officials came to the hospital under their routine process and they asked about some information which was provided to them.

First kidney transplant successfully conducted at AIIMS Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

AIIMS Bhopal announced to have successfully completed its first kidney transplant procedure. The landmark surgery, performed on January 22, 2024, marks a significant advancement in the healthcare landscape of the region. The recipient of this life-saving procedure is a 32-year-old male hailing from Rewa, who had been battling kidney disease for the past three years. His journey towards recovery began when he sought medical attention at the OPD of AIIMS Bhopal, presenting symptoms including vomiting sensation and weakness etc. Following thorough examinations, his condition was diagnosed, necessitating either a kidney transplant or dialysis. Opting for a kidney transplant, the patient embarked on a transformative medical journey at AIIMS



Bhopal. The process commenced with the meticulous selection of prospective donors from his family, ultimately identifying a suitable match in his father. With matching blood group and tissue compatibility confirmed, the stage was set for the groundbreaking procedure. Under the skilled guidance of a distinguished team of medical professionals led by Dr. Mahendra Atlani, Dr. D Kaushal, Dr. M Kumar, Dr. K Mehra, Dr.

S Tejpal, Dr. S Jain, and Dr. Saurabh, the intricate surgery unfolded seamlessly. The team's expertise and dedication ensured the successful completion of the transplant, marking a triumph of medical science and human resilience. During the post-operative phase, the patient received meticulous care and attention, including a ten-day regimen of anti-rejection medication, ensuring optimal recovery and long-term

success of the transplant. Today, with the patient's remarkable recovery, AIIMS Bhopal celebrates a new chapter in its commitment to advancing healthcare excellence. The entire procedure was provided free of cost, underscoring AIIMS Bhopal's unwavering commitment to accessible and quality healthcare. Leveraging the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Yojna, the patient received comprehensive medical care, alleviating financial burdens and prioritizing his well-being above all. Both, the President of AIIMS Bhopal, Dr Sunil Malik and ED of AIIMS Bhopal Prof (Dr) Ajai Singh said that transplantation is an example of cooperation, science and teamwork in healthcare. Besides appreciating the role of the faculty and staff of AIIMS Bhopal, both have acknowledged the role of State government and the State organ and Tissue transplant organization.



MP Governor Mangubhai Patel with Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and cabinet ministers during a meeting at Raj Bhawan in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Man who tried to kill his daughter, also killer of his wife

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The man who tried to murder his 8-year-old daughter by slitting her throat in Bhopal has made a shocking revelation while in police custody. The accused told the police that he had also killed the girl's mother two years ago. The shocking thing about the whole case is that the girl's mother was killed on 29 January 2022. On this same date an attempt was made to murder the daughter. Where the mother's body was thrown, the daughter was also thrown. After which the police is now also investigating the angle of witch craft. Thought she was dead and threw his daughter into the bushes. DCP Riyaz Iqbal said that on Tuesday morning people informed that someone had left an innocent child in an injured condition in the bushes of Saifiya College Ground. The



girl herself came out of the bushes. She appealed to the people for help. Local people informed the police about the matter. The police admitted the innocent child to the hospital for treatment. Where the girl told in her statements that her father Tej Singh Lodhi took her with him asking her to go to her uncle's house. The accused slit the girl's throat and threw her in the bushes in a deserted area

near Saifiya College. Accused Tej Singh Lodhi works at a catering service shop and lives in a rented house in Tila Jamalपुर area of the city. He is originally from Sagar. The minor is the daughter of Lodhi's first wife who has passed away. Lodhi lives here with his second wife with whom he has a son. He is also handicapped and due to poor financial condition, he wanted to kill the girl.

DCP said that after strictly interrogating the accused, he admitted to committing the old murder. He told that he had killed his first wife Sangeeta alias Anita alias Kannu two years ago by crushing her head with a stone. This woman was the mother of this girl whom he wanted to kill. He says that he had doubts about his wife's character. In the year 2017, he went to Atta Palli district Samalpur Odisha to meet her. There he married a woman who already had a daughter. Both of them stayed there for three months, after which they came to Bhopal.. On the night of the murder, he brought his wife on the pretext of taking her for a ride. Here he murdered his wife at Saifiya College Ground. He ran away after throwing the body in the bushes. Since the police could not reach him in this murder case, he decided to kill his daughter also.

NGT imposes fine of Rs 121 crore on BMC over lake contamination

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a penalty of Rs 121 crore on the corporation after contaminated water was found in Upper Lake, Siddiqui Hasan Kha and Bagh Munshi Hussain Talab of Bhopal. Now the corporation is collecting this penalty from the hospitals. On Tuesday, a room in the admin block of LBS Hospital was sealed, while on Wednesday also the team has entered the field for action. The corporation has given notices to 16 hospitals, 3 labs and one bank after polluted water was found in the ponds. Regarding this, the directors of the hospital say that the sewage line of the corporation itself is not in order. On the contrary, the corporation is collecting money from us, which is wrong. Dr. Bhupendra Srivastava of LBS Hospital said that STP and ETP have been installed at his place for 4 years. Have written letters to the corporation several times to add its line to its line. His line was not in order and hence could not be connected. We will go to court in this matter. This argument of the corpora-

tion. The hospitals to which notices have been given are Nawab Siddiq Hasan and Munshi Hussain Khan Talab. For many years, sewage from these institutions was going directly into the ponds. In this case, NGT had imposed a penalty of Rs 121 crore last year, holding the Municipal Corporation guilty. The corporation issued notices to these hospitals and institutions. Officials say that sewage charges are being collected from those whose sewage polluted the ponds. Many notices were given to him since last four months. Now attachment action is being taken. Zone officer Avadh Narayan Makoria said that this action is being taken against polluting ponds. LBS Hospital, Bhopal Care Hospital, ABM Multi Specialty Hospital, Silver Line Hospital, Unique Hospital, Paras Hospital, Hitech Care & Leisure Centre, Hamidia Multi Care Hospital, Shubham Hospital, Central Hospital, City Care Hospital, Sanjeevani Day-Care, Balaji Children Hospital, Ishkripa Endoscopy Lab, Indian Bank, Dr. Tankwal Nose Neck Centre, Aram Clinic, Shilpa Dodani and Paras Pathology Lab.

Biker mowed down by speeding truck

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A youth riding a bike was mowed down by a truck after being hit from behind on Maida Mill Road near Subhash Nagar Bridge in Bhopal. The young man got stuck in the wheel of the dumper and his bike got dragged for about 50 meters. The young man died on the spot. The accident occurred around 2 pm on Wednesday afternoon. The people present at the spot caught the fleeing dumper driver and handed him over to the police. The accused driver has been taken into custody. The deceased Jitend Yadav (27) of Haripur village of Shamshabad tehsil of Vidisha. He was a manager in a private hospital located at Karond in Bhopal and lived in a rented room in Nishatpura. ASI Ram Bharosa said that the truck hit the bike-riding youth hard from behind on Maida Mill. His body was stuck between the tires of the truck. After the accident, the accused dumper driver tried to escape from the spot. However, people caught him and handed him over to the police. The bike on which the young man was riding was registered in the name of some other youth. Police have registered a case against the errant driver and started investigation.

Western disturbances cause clouds in the whole State

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The weather remained cloudy in the state due to Western Disturbance and it has provided relief from the harsh cold at night. The minimum mercury was recorded above 10 degree celsius on Tuesday night in all the cities of the state except Pachmarhi (9.6degree celsius). The highest minimum temperature was 15.6 degree celsius in Narmadapuram. However, the temperature dropped in many cities during the day on Tuesday. The maximum temperature in 16 cities including Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior was less than 27 degrees. According to meteorologist the weather pattern will remain like this till February 5. After this, another round of severe cold may come. Meteorologists said that till February 3, two western disturbances are becoming active in North India. Their impact is also felt in the state. Due to the absence of northern winds,

there will be no severe cold at night. In the night on Tuesday the night temperature recorded in big cities were Bhopal 14.0 (temperature in degrees Celsius), Indore 13.6, Gwalior 12.9, Jabalpur 12.6 and Ujjain 12.0. The highest day temperature in the state is 29.6 degree celsius and the lowest night temperature was recorded at 8.8 degree celsius Kalyanpur KVK (Shahdol). Moderate to dense fog prevailed in Morea, Gwalior and Bhind; Light fog in Sheopur Kalan, Shivpuri, Datia and Niwari. Minimum visibility was recorded at 100 meters at Gwalior airport in the morning. There was no significant change in the minimum temperature in the districts of all the divisions. Temperature was recorded above normal in Bhopal, Narmadapuram, Ujjain, Rewa, Shahdol and Sagar division, significantly higher in the districts of Gwalior division.



Director Sarjana Academy for Design and Fine Arts, Sunil Shukla addresses a seminar on an art promotion organised on the first death anniversary of an art teacher late Sheel Chandra Jain, at Government Kama Nehru CM Rise School in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Dr Bhavna & Dr Anisha from AIIMS excel at PEDICON 2024

Bhopal: Dr Bhavna Dhingra Professor, Department of Pediatrics from AIIMS Bhopal, recently captivated attendees at the 61st National Conference of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (PEDICON 2024) with her illuminating lecture on the mechanism of action of immunotherapy. Recently held conference at the Lullu Bolgatty Convention

Centre in Kochi, Kerala, was a gathering of leading minds in pediatric medicine from across the country. Immunotherapy has emerged as a groundbreaking modality in the treatment of allergic and immunologic disorders, offering renewed hope to individuals battling these conditions. Dr. Bhavna Dhingra's presentation shed light on the nuances of

allergen-specific immunotherapy, a promising approach that aims to induce desensitization or tolerance through regulated exposure to identified allergens. In an era witnessing a surge in the incidence of such disorders, this therapeutic avenue holds immense potential for symptom alleviation and enhancing the quality of life for affected individuals.

State Cabinet approves financial assistance to Start-ups

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The State Cabinet here on Wednesday decided to amend the Madhya Pradesh Start-up Policy and Implementation Plan, 2022. According to the amendment, start-ups of the state will be provided financial assistance for participation in national and international events. On participation in domestic events, reimbursement of 75% of the expenditure incurred per event up to a maximum of Rs 50 thousand will be given and on participation in events outside the country, 75% of the expenditure incurred per event up to a maximum of Rs 1 lakh 50 thousand will be reimbursed. A start-up will be given assistance for maximum one time in one financial year and maximum two times in



the entire lifetime. The Cabinet gave revised administrative approval of Rs 164 crore 49 lakh for the expansion of the Super Speciality Hospital under the Medical College, Rewa. Additional sanction of Rs 25 crore 31 lakh has been given for the expansion of Super Speciality Hospital Rewa. This amount will be utilised on new ICU beds, cath lab, construction of private ward and pur-

chase of furniture etc. It is noteworthy that earlier approval of Rs 139 crore 18 lakh was issued for the construction of Super Speciality Hospital under Medical College, Rewa. Now it has been hiked to Rs 164 crore 49 lakh. Earlier, the Cabinet meeting commenced with the rendition of Vande Mataram by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and his Cabinet colleagues at

Mantralaya. In his initial address, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project and thanked Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for gifting road projects worth Rs 10 thousand 405 crore to the state which was greeted by the members of the Council of Ministers with thumping of tables. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project, pending for almost two decades, will now take shape with the initiative of Prime Minister Modi. This will benefit 12 districts of Malwa and Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh and 13 districts of Eastern Rajasthan. Availability of drinking water will increase in these areas and

water will also be available for irrigation and industrial use. He informed that the state's share in the project worth Rs 75000 crore, is only 10 percent, whereas the centre's share is 90 percent. Dr. Yadav said that bhoomi puja of the Ken-Betwa link project will be conducted in February 2024. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that National Highway projects granted by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Gadkari will provide quick and easy road transport facilities in all the divisions of the state. < Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that special task force will be formed for the implementation of the suggestions given by Union Minister Gadkari on agriculture and industrial sector and for necessary coordination.



Heavy police force deployed outside the mortuary at Govt Hamidia Hospital during an autopsy of a youth who died in the police custody in Kolar locality, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Property tagging last date extended till Feb 29

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has extended the last date of geo tagging of properties till 29 February 2024. Technical glitches have prevented many property tax payers in Delhi from geotagging their properties by the MCD's January 31 deadline. It is estimated that only Only 95,000 out of the target of 1.5 million properties have been geotagged so far. Property owners have complained about glitches in the MCD's mobile app, especially for iOS users. "It has come to notice that a large number taxpayers using

iPhone (iOS version) due to some technical glitches or due to some other reasons, property tax payers have not been able to geo-tag their properties by due date. This issue is being handled on priority and will soon be resolved. However, in view the difficulties faced, it has been decided to extend the last date of geo-tagging of properties by taxpayer till 29 February 2024," the MCD said in a statement. "If the taxpayers fail to geo-tag their property, they cannot avail the rebate on lumpsum payment of tax by 30 June, 2024 in the next financial year (2024-25). All property owners/occu-

piers, who have not geo-tagged their properties so far are requested to geo-tag their property by due date i.e. 29th February 2024," it added. Geotagging properties means digitally mapping a property with the geographic information system (GIS). This means that a property can be identified on a map with its unique and permanent latitude and longitude coordinates. To do this, property owners must download MCD's mobile app, and while present at their property, select the "current location" and link it with any unique property identification code (UPIC).



Visitors enjoy boat rides on an eve at the upper lake in Bhopal on Wednesday.

Pioneer photo

Mani Shankar Aiyar's daughter asked to vacate her home in Jangpura

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's daughter Suranya Aiyar has been asked by the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) in Delhi's Jangpura Extension to vacate her home for "creating tension and hatred" following her comments on the Pran Pratishtha of Ram Mandir in social media. The RWA's notice comes after Suranya had expressed solidarity with Muslim citizens and denounced acts done in name of Nationalism and Hinduism. The house is owned by Mani Shankar Aiyar, as per his affidavit submitted to the Election Commission of India. RWA has alleged that Suranya condemned the grand 'pran pratishtha' ceremony of Ram Mandir on social media. She has also reportedly observed a three-day fast from January 20 to 23 in protest against the temple's consecration. The RWA's letter to Aiyar and her father urged them to adhere to the norms of good citizenship and refrain from "creating hatred and mistrust". The association requested Mani Shankar Aiyar to condemn his daughter's actions, stating that "it's not in good taste for the colony and the society as a

whole". Aiyar in a video posted on Facebook, however, stated that she did not live in the colony represented by the RWA and that she did not receive any "notice" (letter) from it. She said that it was decided by her to not to speak to the media over the issue for the moment. Mani Shankar Aiyar, when contacted, refused to comment on it. In a letter addressed to the Aiyars, Jangpura Extension Residents' Welfare Association president Kapil Kakkar said the association was approached by residents of the colony over her social media "stand/rant" and keeping fast from January 20-23. It is the responsibility of an RWA to see that there is cordial relation between all the residents and "we do not appreciate a resident rant which may disturb the peace in the colony or hurt religious sentiments of the residents," read the letter dated January 27. The "pran pratishtha" (consecration) ceremony of Ram Lalla was held in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the newly built Ram temple in Ayodhya on January

22. The RWA accused Suranya of "hate speech" and requested her to follow the norms of a good citizen. It claimed the colony was inhabited by residents who came to India from Pakistan after partition. Kakkar requested Mani Shankar Aiyar in the letter to "condemn" the act of his daughter, saying the RWA will highly appreciate it since it was not in good taste for the colony. "In case you still think what you have done in protesting against the consecration (ceremony) of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, we would suggest you to kindly move out to another colony..." Kakkar said in the letter. He said the letter was sent to Mani Shankar Aiyar. Suranya in her Facebook video said, "First, the relevant Residents' Welfare Association is from a colony where I do not live! Secondly, I have decided for the moment not to speak to the media as right now." She also criticised the media of spreading "toxicity and confusion". The 49-year-old said that she studied abroad and was involved with activism with people of all political backgrounds. "I leave my work

here on my Facebook and YouTube pages for you to think for yourselves. I am going to try and avoid a media circus as I believe that we all in India deserve better. Let us stop abusing each other and try some thinking instead. Jai Hind!" she said. She said further that reasons for her disagreement were expressed by her in a previous speech (video). "I made a spiritual presentation of my own pain about this by fasting peacefully in my home," she stated. "What matters is that whatever point of view we put forward, whether people are able to see some sense in it. And if at the end of the day, at the end of this process, in India, we can even just find a more civilised, a more thinking and a more sincere way of talking and feeling about these things, then we would have achieved something," she said. Kakkar said, "What kind of Hindu is she who is demeaning her own religion. We asked her to regret her provocative statements. We will not ignore it." He said that the RWA was awaiting the Aiyars' response. Suranya in her video posted on YouTube on January 19, said,

"With the forthcoming event in Ayodhya on January 22, the atmosphere here in Delhi...Has thickened to a spiritually poisonous and unbreatheable concentrate of Hindu chauvinism, malice and bullying." She said that she was deeply anguished as an Indian and a Hindu and after thinking hard decided to go on a fast from January 20 to January 23. "I am doing this first and foremost as an expression of my love and sorrow to my fellow Muslim citizens of India. I cannot let this moment pass without saying as loud as I can to my Muslim brothers and sisters that I love you and that I condemn and repudiate what is being done in the name of Hinduism and nationalism in Ayodhya," she said. Reacting to the development, the BJP said the action of the RWA should serve as a message to everyone who believes abusing Hindu beliefs is 'par for the course'. The RWA has "asked Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar and his daughter to apologise for defiling the Pran Pratishtha ceremony at Ram Mandir, and leave the residential colony," BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said in a post on X.

Deemed varsity status to IIMC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication, a 58-year-old institution known for its journalism and mass communication courses, was on Wednesday granted the status of a deemed-to-be university, empowering it to award degrees rather than just diplomas, according to the Union Ministry of Education. The newly-awarded status will also empower the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) to offer doctoral programmes. The institute, established under the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in August 1965, is one of the country's premier institutions of its kind, providing quality training in journalism and undertaking meaningful research in media and mass communication. "On the advice of the UGC (University Grants Commission), the Ministry of Education, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, hereby declares the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, along with its five regional campuses in Jammu, Amravati (Maharashtra), Aizawl (Mizoram), Kottayam (Kerala) and Dhenkanal (Odisha) as an institution deemed-to-be-university under distinct category," the ministry said in an official notification.

"IIMC, New Delhi, shall become compliant with the UGC (Institutions-deemed-to-be-Universities) Regulations, 2023, within a period of six years from the date of issuance of the notification. The entire moveable and immovable assets will be legally transferred in the name of IIMC, New Delhi, within one year," it said. IIMC shall not indulge or engage in any activities that are of commercial and profit-making in nature, the notification added. The institute currently offers postgraduate diploma in journalism courses in English, Hindi, Urdu, Odia, Marathi, Malayalam, radio and television, and advertising and public relations. Headquartered at the full-fledged campus in New Delhi, IIMC has regional campuses in Dhenkanal (established in 1993), Aizawl (established in 2011), Amravati (established in 2011), Jammu (established in 2012) and Kottayam (established in 1995) to provide quality media education in the respective regional languages, in addition to various courses offered at the national level. The IIMC is also the training academy for Indian Information Service (IIS) officers. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, in a post on X, called it a special and historic day for IIMC.

Accused allege they are being tortured by police

New Delhi: Five of the six people arrested in the Parliament security breach case on Wednesday told a court here that they were allegedly being tortured by Delhi Police to accept their association with opposition parties. The submission was made before Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur, who extended the judicial custody of all the six accused till March 1. Five of the accused -- Manoranjan D, Sagar Sharma, Lalit Jha, Amol Shinde and Mahesh Kumawat -- told the court that they were forced to sign about 70-odd blank papers. 'Accused persons were tor-

tured/given electric shocks to sign and confess (to) the commission of crime under the UAPA and their association with national political parties... Two accused persons were forced to write on the paper about their association with the political party/leader of opposition political party," the accused told the court in a joint petition. The court sought a reply from police in the matter and fixed February 17 for hearing the application. The sixth accused in the case is Neelam Azad, who had earlier alleged before the court that police had forced her to sign several blank papers.

Azad's application is currently pending before the court. "During (after/before the conduction of polygraph/ narco/ brain mapping), the associated persons conducting the tests pressed two accused persons to name a political party/leader about their involvement.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GWALIOR
Narayan Krishan Shejwalkar Bhawan, Near Taran Puskar, City Centre, Gwalior (M.P.)
Tel : 0751-2438300, 4080352, Fax : 0751-2438249

No. /M/PGMC/257/24&9/1/Severage Network/2024

Gwalior, Dated : 24.01.2024

जलसफाई RO प्रॉजैक्ट 56

Notice Inviting Tender

दिनांक 30-01-2024

On behalf of Gwalior Municipal Corporation (GMC), Madhya Pradesh, online Percentage Rate bids are invited on website <http://mptenders.gov.in> and www.mprban.gov.in and bid Document can be purchased from 10:30 AM dated 24.01.2024 to 5:30 PM dated 21.02.2024.

(R.K. Shukla)
Executive Engineer, Gwalior Municipal Corporation

Tender ID	Name of Works	Probable amount of Contract (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.)	Time of Completion
2024_UAD_327943_1 dated 23.01.2024	Survey, design, preparation of drawings, providing, laying and commissioning of sewerage network in Satyanarayan Ki Tekri, ward No. 02 & nearby areas of Gwalior Municipal Corporation	22807524.00	114037.62	15000.00	06 months including rainy season.

NIT with all details of works to be executed and provisions of contract can be viewed on website <http://mptenders.gov.in> and www.mprban.gov.in and bid Document can be purchased from 10:30 AM dated 24.01.2024 to 5:30 PM dated 21.02.2024.

(R.K. Shukla)
Executive Engineer, Gwalior Municipal Corporation

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER
Signal & Telecommunication Branch
Invitation of E-tender on behalf of the President of India acting through Sr. Divisional Engineer Signal & Telecom (Co-Ordination), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for the following works. **NIT No.:** JBP-N-Tele-TENDER-2024-02, **Name of work with location:** Upgradation of NKJ Diesel loco shed for maintenance of electric locomotives. **Approx cost of the work:** Rs. 4112440.20, **Cost of tender form(In Rs.):** Nil, **Address of the office of railway:** DRM(S&T)'s Office, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Jabalpur, **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 82300/-, **Completion period (In months):** 06 months, **Date & Time for closing & opening of tender:** Closing on 15.00 Hrs on 29.02.2024 & opening after 15:00 hours. The complete information of the above 'e-tender' is available on website "https://trep.gov.in" and also placed on notice board of the Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) Office, West Central Railway, Jabalpur. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tender.

DRM (S&T), WCR, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA
[Rule-8(1)] **POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immoveable Property)**
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-section (2) of Section 13 read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession symbolic of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said rules.

S No.	Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantor	Amount due to the bank as per notice	Details of Immoveable Property of which possession taken by the bank	Demand Notice Date Possession Date
1.	Borrower - M/s Poorvi Agro, Prop.- Kavita Dubey W/o Suresh Dubey	Rs.9,78,571.00/- + Interest & Other Charges w.e.f. 31/10/2023	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Equitable Mortgage All Those Pieces & Parcel Of Property With Construction & Fixture There Being & Lying At Vill Bhadri Jamkunda Tehsil-Junnardeo Dist. Chhindwara / Survey No. 140/2 Khasra No 140/2, Area Known As Bhadri Area Admeasuring 930 Sqft. Owner - Poorvi Agro Prop Kavita Dubey W/o Suresh Dubey. Bounded as North: Govt/ Forest Land, East-Govt/ Forest Land, West- Agri Land Of Kavita Dubey, South-Agri Land Of Kavita Dubey	09/11/2023 30/01/2024
2.	Borrower - Shri Tundnath Tiwari s/o Shri Ramdular Tiwari Co-Borrower- Smt. Anju Tiwari w/o Shri Tundnath Tiwari	Rs.17,28,198.00/- + Interest & Other Charges w.e.f. 08/11/2023	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Equitable Mortgage of all those pieces and parcel of land & property lying at - Survey no / Khasra no. 845/16, Village Ekabihari, Tehsil Mohkdel, Dist-Chhindwara, area admeasuring 1500 Sq. Ft. Owner- Smt. Anju Tiwari w/o Shri Tundnath Tiwari. Bounded as - North: House of Ashok Pawar, East- Road, West - Open Plot of others, South-House of Dr. Kaushal	09/11/2023 25/01/2024

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank Of Maharashtra for an amount hereinabove mentioned. The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as above. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

CHIEF MANAGER & AUTHORIZED OFFICER
BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

केंबरा बैंक Canara Bank
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय: प्रथमतः साई बाबा कॉम्प्लेक्स, जीडीए बिल्डिंग के पास, फूलबाग, ग्वालियर
फोन: 0751-2423126

स्वर्ण आमूषण नीलामी हेतु सूचना

नीचे वर्णित उधारकर्ता को बैंक द्वारा, स्वर्ण आमूषण को गिरवी रखकर प्रदत्त ऋण की बकाया राशि का भुगतान करने हेतु नोटिस जारी किया गया था। उधारकर्ता बकाया राशि को चुकाने में असमर्थ होने पर हम गिरवी रखे स्वर्ण आमूषण की नीलामी दिनांक 12.02.2024 को आयोजित करने के लिए विवश हैं। इस नीलामी से अधिशेष राशि प्राप्त होने पर संबंधित उधारकर्ता को वापिस की जायेगी और यदि नीलामी से उधारकर्ता को देयताओं से कम राशि प्राप्त होती है तो शेष राशि उधारकर्ता से उचित कानूनी कार्यवाही के माध्यम से वसूली जायेगी। केनरा बैंक बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के बंधक संपत्ति को बेचने का व नीलामी की तारीख बदलने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखता है।

क्र.	ऋणी का नाम व पता	ऋणी ज्ञाता संख्या	बंधक आमूषण	संपत्ति वजन	देय राशि	आरक्षित राशि
केनरा बैंक शाखा: बेनीगंज, जिला- छतरपुर, मो: 8269738394 E-mail: cb4319@canarabank.com						
1.	श्री रफीक खां पुत्र श्री रशीद खां पता- ग्राम- हकीमपुरा वार्ड नं.06, पोस्ट बेनीगंज तहसील राजनगर, जिला छतरपुर म.प्र. पिन नं. 4716006	A/c No. 4319842000001	1- हार, 1- जंजीर, 2- चूड़ियां 3- अंगूठी 2- झुमकी 1- बैदा 2- नथ	GROSS/ NET 59,640/46.127	₹ 1,98,308.00	₹ 2,38,292.00

इच्छुक निविदाकर्ता दिनांक 12.02.2024 को दोपहर 3.00 बजे स्वर्ण नीलामी में अपनी बोली सील बंद लिफाफे के माध्यम से स्थान: ग्वालियर, दिनांक: 24.01.2024 संबंधित शाखा में जाकर लगा सकते हैं।

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी केनरा बैंक

केंबरा बैंक Canara Bank
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय: प्रथमतः साई बाबा कॉम्प्लेक्स, जीडीए बिल्डिंग के पास, फूलबाग, ग्वालियर
फोन: 0751-2423126

स्वर्ण आमूषण नीलामी हेतु सूचना

नीचे वर्णित उधारकर्ता को बैंक द्वारा, स्वर्ण आमूषण को गिरवी रखकर प्रदत्त ऋण की बकाया राशि का भुगतान करने हेतु नोटिस जारी किया गया था। उधारकर्ता बकाया राशि को चुकाने में असमर्थ होने पर हम गिरवी रखे स्वर्ण आमूषण की नीलामी दिनांक 12.02.2024 को आयोजित करने के लिए विवश हैं। इस नीलामी से अधिशेष राशि प्राप्त होने पर संबंधित उधारकर्ता को वापिस की जायेगी और यदि नीलामी से उधारकर्ता को देयताओं से कम राशि प्राप्त होती है तो शेष राशि उधारकर्ता से उचित कानूनी कार्यवाही के माध्यम से वसूली जायेगी। केनरा बैंक बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के बंधक संपत्ति को बेचने का व नीलामी की तारीख बदलने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखता है।

क्र.	ऋणी का नाम व पता	ऋणी ज्ञाता संख्या	बंधक आमूषण	संपत्ति वजन	देय राशि	आरक्षित राशि
केनरा बैंक शाखा: बाननौर, जिला- मुरैना, मो: 9702221421, 07532-255008, E-mail: cb4595@canarabank.com						
1.	श्री धर्मवीर पुत्र श्री संतोषी पता- ग्राम- पड़ावली पोस्ट रंथु, जिला मुरैना म.प्र. पिन - 476444	A/c No. 18004412880	1- हार, 2- झुमकी 1- जंजीर,	GROSS/ NET 40.400/30.200	₹ 1,16,710.00	₹ 1,56,014.00
2.	श्री धर्मवीर पुत्र श्री संतोषी पता- ग्राम- पड़ावली पोस्ट रंथु, जिला मुरैना म.प्र. पिन - 476444	A/c No. 180076252741	1- हार, 2- झुमकी 4- चूड़ी,	GROSS/ NET 68.300/51.400	₹ 2,15,335.00	₹ 2,65,533.00

इच्छुक निविदाकर्ता दिनांक 12.02.2024 को दोपहर 3.00 बजे स्वर्ण नीलामी में अपनी बोली सील बंद लिफाफे के माध्यम से स्थान: ग्वालियर, दिनांक: 24.01.2024 संबंधित शाखा में जाकर लगा सकते हैं।

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी केनरा बैंक

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA
Zonal Office Chhindwara /मंडल कार्यालय चिंदवाड़ा
इ-मेल- email recovery_chb@mahabank.co.in

HEAD OFFICE: LOKMANGAL 1501, SHIVAJINAGAR, PUNE - 5

[Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immoveable Property)
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-section (2) of Section 13 read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession symbolic of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said rules.

S No.	Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantor	Amount due to the bank as per notice	Details of Immoveable Property of which possession taken by the bank	Demand Notice Date Possession Date
1.	Borrower - M/s Poorvi Agro, Prop.- Kavita Dubey W/o Suresh Dubey	Rs.9,78,571.00/- + Interest & Other Charges w.e.f. 31/10/2023	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Equitable Mortgage All Those Pieces & Parcel Of Property With Construction & Fixture There Being & Lying At Vill Bhadri Jamkunda Tehsil-Junnardeo Dist. Chhindwara / Survey No. 140/2 Khasra No 140/2, Area Known As Bhadri Area Admeasuring 930 Sqft. Owner - Poorvi Agro Prop Kavita Dubey W/o Suresh Dubey. Bounded as North: Govt/ Forest Land, East-Govt/ Forest Land, West- Agri Land Of Kavita Dubey, South-Agri Land Of Kavita Dubey	09/11/2023 30/01/2024
2.	Borrower - Shri Tundnath Tiwari s/o Shri Ramdular Tiwari Co-Borrower- Smt. Anju Tiwari w/o Shri Tundnath Tiwari	Rs.17,28,198.00/- + Interest & Other Charges w.e.f. 08/11/2023	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Equitable Mortgage of all those pieces and parcel of land & property lying at - Survey no / Khasra no. 845/16, Village Ekabihari, Tehsil Mohkdel, Dist-Chhindwara, area admeasuring 1500 Sq. Ft. Owner- Smt. Anju Tiwari w/o Shri Tundnath Tiwari. Bounded as - North: House of Ashok Pawar, East- Road, West - Open Plot of others, South-House of Dr. Kaushal	09/11/2023 25/01/2024

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank Of Maharashtra for an amount hereinabove mentioned. The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as above. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

CHIEF MANAGER & AUTHORIZED OFFICER
BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

Place: Chhindwara, Date: 01/02/2024

India giving befitting reply to expansionism, terrorism: President

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu said here on Wednesday India's armed forces are giving a befitting response to expansionism and terrorism. It was in an apparent reference to the eastern Ladakh border row with China and Pakistan's proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir.

In her address at a joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament, President Murmu also said India's defence production has crossed the Rs one lakh crore mark as she highlighted the government's efforts to boost the domestic defence manufacturing. She also mentioned indigenous construction of aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, production of light combat combat jets Tejas, plans to produce C-295 transport planes and modern

aircraft engines in India. President Murmu also referred to the increasing role of women in the armed forces and said women are now operating fighter jets and commanding naval ships.

"Today, my government is building modern infrastructure along the entire border. This work should have been done long ago on (a) priority basis. Be it terrorism or expansionism, our forces today are giving a befitting response," she said.

Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-and-half-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

The President, who is also the supreme commander of the armed forces, said the tangible



results of the government's efforts to strengthen internal security are visible.

"There is a sense of security in Jammu and Kashmir today. The earlier deserted look of

market places due to strike has been replaced by the hustle and bustle of crowded markets," she

said. "There has been significant reduction in the incidents of separatism in the North East," she added. In her first address at the new Parliament building, Murmu also listed the government's initiative to strengthen 'Nari Shakti'. "This year's Republic Day Parade was also dedicated to women empowerment. In this parade, the world once again witnessed the capability of our daughters," she said. "My government has enlarged the role of daughters everywhere -- in water, land, sky and space," she said. President Murmu said "for the first time, women cadets have been given admission in Sainik Schools and the National Defence Academy." She also said "Today, women are also fighter pilots and are also commanding naval ships for the first time."

The president said the tangible results of the Modi government's efforts to strengthen internal security are visible before everyone. She said naxal-affected areas have shrunk and there has been a steep decline in Naxal violence. President Murmu said the central government has, for the first time, brought development to areas which had remained neglected for decades. "The villages adjoining our borders were viewed as the last villages of the country. We recognised them as the first villages of the country. In order to develop these villages, Vibrant Village Programme has been started," she said. The President said remote and faraway islands like Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep were also deprived of development but the government has developed modern facilities

on these islands too. "Roads, air connectivity and high speed internet facilities have been provided there. Just a few weeks ago, Lakshadweep was also connected with under-water optical fibre. This will benefit the local population as well as tourists," she said. The President said under the 'Aspirational Districts Programme', the government has laid emphasis on the development of more than 100 districts of the country. She said in the wake of its success, the government has also launched the Aspirational Blocks Programme. President Murmu said building of airports at various places is also advantageous and now the Northeast is witnessing record tourist arrivals. Now there is heightened excitement about Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands, she said.

Scope of Indian foreign policy broadens far beyond constraints of past: President

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu said here on Wednesday the scope of India's foreign policy has gone far beyond the "constraints of the past" and New Delhi firmly placed the country's interests before the world even in this era of global disputes and conflicts.

In her address at a joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament, President Murmu said the successful hosting of the historic G-20 Summit strengthened India's global standing and that the country's efforts in making the African Union a permanent member of the bloc was widely appreciated.

The President said, today India is a leading voice in the world against terrorism. In the backdrop of various conflicts and global turmoil, the government has established India as a 'Vishwa-Mitra' (friend of the world) in these difficult times, she said.

"Even in this era of global disputes and conflicts, my government has firmly placed India's interests before the world. The scope of India's foreign policy today has gone far



beyond the constraints of the past," she said in her first address at the new Parliament building.

President Murmu said the world was introduced to the real potential of India through holding of programmes across the country and that Jammu and Kashmir and North East witnessed such big international events for the first time. "In the last 10 years, another conventional way of thinking has been changed Earlier,

events related to diplomacy were confined to the corridors of Delhi. My government has ensured direct participation of the public in this also," she said. "We saw a great example of this during India's G-20 presidency. The way India connected the G-20 with the public was unprecedented," she added. Murmu said the whole world appreciated the historic G-20 summit held in India. "The unanimous adoption of the Delhi Declaration even in

a fractured environment is historic. India's vision from 'women led development' to environmental issues has become the basis of the declaration," she said. The President said India's "efforts to secure permanent membership of the African Union in the G-20 have also been appreciated." "During this conference, the development of India-Middle-east-Europe corridor was announced. This corridor will further strengthen India's mar-

itime capability," she said. President Murmu described the launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance as a big event as such steps are expanding India's role in solving global problems. "Today, India responds strongly and takes initiatives for the humanity caught in crises. Wherever there is a crisis in the world today, India tries to respond promptly," she said. The President said the government has instilled new confidence in Indians working across the world. "Wherever crisis occurred, we have evacuated every Indian safely through campaigns like Operation Ganga, Operation Kaveri, Vande Bharat," she said. "My government has made continuous efforts to propagate the Indian traditions of Yoga, Pranayam and Ayurveda to the entire world," she said. "Last year, representatives of 135 countries did yoga together at the United Nations Headquarters. This is a record in itself," she added. "The World Health Organization's first Global Centre for Traditional Medicine is being established in India," President Murmu said.

Seminar on progress of national mission for mentoring organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) organised a two-day Year End Seminar for Sharing Best Practices and Periodic Review/continuous evaluation of National Mission for Mentoring (NMM) with all stakeholders.

According to a Press Information Bureau Press note, the seminar aimed to bring together the 60 National Mentors, Mentees, Principals, Nodal Officers, academic dignitaries & educational administrators of the country to discuss and review the progress of NMM.

NCTE launched NMM in pilot mode on 29th July 2022 in selected 30 Central Schools (15 KVs, 10 JNVs, 5 CBSE) across the country. NCTE also organized 2-day capacity building workshop for the onboarded 60 mentors on 31st May and 1st June 2023 for the effective implementation of NMM as envisaged in NEP 2020.

NMM, as envisaged in para 15.11 of National Education Policy (NEP 2020), has been established to create a large pool of outstanding professionals willing to provide pro-



fessional and personal support to school teachers across the country and ensure their continuous professional development. NMM recognizes the crucial role of mentoring in the professional and personal development of teachers, as well as the positive impact it has on student learning outcomes. It aims to create a network of mentors who will guide and support teachers in developing the necessary 21st century skills.

This program is not only enhancing the teaching abilities of the mentee teachers but also facilitating a culture of continuous learning, enabling teachers to stay updated and relevant in today's dynamic educational landscape.

Through this seminar, NCTE aimed to foster a collaborative environment for sharing best practices and experiences, as well as to provide a platform for Mentors and Mentees to voice their challenges and suggestions for upgradation. Prof. Yogesh Singh, Chairperson, NCTE graced the Year End Seminar as Chief Guest and addressed the dignitaries and stakeholders present there. Later, he also launched the NMM Webpage in the presence of Ms. Kesang Y. Sherpa IRS, Member Secretary NCTE for the ongoing support and guidance for mentors and other stakeholders. The launch of NMM website is an important step towards enhancing the mentorship ecosystem in the country.

Study reveals less than 1 per cent self reporting rate for mental illness in India

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's recognition as the world's suicide capital, with over 2.6 lakh cases reported annually, starkly contrasts with the less than one per cent self-reporting rate for mental health issues. While this discrepancy reflects individuals' reluctance to openly acknowledge and report their struggles due to societal judgment and stigma, a study by IIT, Jodhpur and USA's Ohio State University has found that those seeking help have to incur significant expenses largely due to reliance on the private sector.

Addressing this issue is crucial to fostering a more supportive environment where individuals feel comfortable seeking help for their mental health concerns, said the study published in the International Journal of Mental Health Systems and Co-authored by Dr Alok Ranjan, Assistant Professor, School of Liberal Arts (SoLA), IIT Jodhpur and Dr. Jewel Crasta, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA. "The study revealed that the self-reporting of mental illness was less than one per cent based on the 75th Round National Sample Survey, 2017-18. The survey completely relied on the self-reporting of the individuals," Ranjan said. The data was collected from 5,55,115 individuals from randomly selected 8,077 villages and 6,181 urban areas, including 283 outpatient and 374 hospitalisation cases due to mental disorders in India. "Stigma in society acts as a significant barrier to reporting mental health issues. In today's society, the reluctance to report mental health issues persists due to the prevailing stigma. Individuals, fearing



social judgement, often choose silence over seeking help. Destigmatising mental health is crucial to fostering an environment where seeking support is embraced," he added.

The study also shed light on the significant out-of-pocket expenses incurred by individuals seeking mental health services, largely due to reliance on the private sector. There are also not enough mental health professionals in the public sector too to treat people who do seek help. This is especially true in rural parts of India. Calling the observations as yet another wake up call, Dr Shweta Sharma, Clinical Psychologist and Joint Secretary of the Indian Association of Clinical Psychologists who is not related to the study said "Mental health has not been a significant focus in India, primarily because many issues are perceived to be resolved through psychotherapy, often dismissed as mere conversation. "The value of trained professionals is underestimated. Unclear policies and a lack of awareness among the general population about mental health treatment contribute to confusion regarding whom to consult, when to seek help, and the importance of mental health check-ups. This situation allows untrained practitioners to set

fees arbitrarily, leading people to assume that private practitioners are expensive, and consulting psychologists is a waste of both money and time."

She underscored the need for serious attention to mental health and licensed mental health professionals. "The rising number of suicides among aspiring engineers and medical students highlights the overwhelming stress they face. The government must prioritize policies, shape training programs, and provide health coverage for mental disorders. A well-structured plan, coupled with public awareness, is imperative at this juncture."

The study echoed similar views as it also uncovered a socioeconomic divide, with self-reporting of mental disorders being 1.73 times higher among the richest income group population compared to the poorest in India. The private sector emerged as a major provider of mental health services, accounting for 66.1 pc of outpatient care and 59.2 pc of inpatient care. "A mere 23 per cent of individuals hospitalised for mental disorders had health insurance coverage at the national level. The study revealed that average out-of-pocket expenditures for both hospitalisation and outpatient care were significantly higher in the private sector than in the public sector," Ranjan shared.

ICG to celebrate 48th Raising Day today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is celebrating its 48th Raising Day on February one. From a modest beginning with just 07 surface platforms in 1978, ICG has grown into a formidable force with 152 ships and 78 aircraft in its inventory and is likely to achieve targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 100 aircraft by 2030.

The ICG is now considered to be one of renowned Coast Guards in the world due to its achievements and for the efficiency with which it operates its assets in a challenging envi-



ronment, thereby ensuring round the clock safety and security.

True to its motto "Vayam Rakshamah" meaning "We Protect", the service has to its credit, saving over 11,554 lives

since its inception in 1977 and 200 lives in the year 2023, which translates into saving one precious life every second day. To ensure security in the Maritime Zones of India, the Indian Coast Guard has main-

'Normal to above normal rainfall likely in North India this month'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

After experiencing a drier-than-usual December and January, north India is expected to see normal to above-normal rainfall in February, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday. Addressing a press conference, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said India cumulatively may experience above-normal rainfall in February. Northwest India recorded just 3.1 mm of rainfall in January, the second lowest since 1901, the IMD said. North India consisting of seven meteorological sub-divisions is most likely to receive above-normal rainfall (more than 122 per cent of the long period average) in February. "Monthly rainfall over the country as a whole during February is most likely to be above normal (more than 119 per cent of the long period



average)," Mohapatra said. Normal to above-normal rainfall is predicted over northeast and central India. Below-normal rainfall is likely over south peninsular India. Most parts of the country are likely to witness above-normal minimum temperatures. Northwest, west central, north-east and parts of east-central India are likely to see above-normal maximum temperatures in February, according to the IMD. Normal to below-normal maximum temperatures are likely in most parts of peninsular

India and parts of east-central India, the IMD said. "Below-normal cold wave days are expected over some parts of central India during February," it said. The strong El Nino conditions -- abnormal warming of surface waters in the central Pacific Ocean -- are likely to weaken steadily and turn to ENSO neutral conditions by the end of the spring season. Most models indicate a transition to La Nina conditions, considered favourable for Indian southwest monsoon, around July-September, Mohapatra said.

NEET PG exam fee reduced by ₹750 for all medical aspirants

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In a significant move aimed to provide financial relief to the numerous candidates participating in NEET PG exams, the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has decided to reduce the exam fees by Rs 750 for all aspiring medical professionals. "Any candidate submitting the application form for the forthcoming examination after January 1, 2024 will have to pay the reduced fee," an official from the Union Health Ministry said, citing a notification issued in this regard. The reduced fee would be less than the application fee charged in 2013.

In 2013, application fee for general and OBC category was Rs 3,750, which was raised to Rs 4,250 in 2021 (the current fee). This has been reduced to



Rs 3,500 with effect from January 1, 2024. In 2013, the application fee for SC, ST and PWD candidates was Rs 2,750, which was raised to Rs 3,250 in 2021. This has been reduced to Rs 2,500 now. It may be recalled, the NBEMS has revised the examination date for NEET PG 2024. Earlier, the tentative date was March 3, however, now NEET PG 2024 will be held on July 7, 2024. As per the information, the NEET PG eligibility cut-off has been set to August 15, 2024. Application forms, information bulletin, and other details related to the exam are hosted on natboard.edu.in, said the official.

Kerala Congress leader George joins BJP

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The BJP, struggling to get a mooring in Kerala, got a shot in the arm as a veteran leader of the Kerala Congress (a party representing the interests of the Church) joined the Hindutva party in New Delhi on Wednesday. George, a seven-time legislator of the Kerala Legislative Assembly and former chief whip during the UDF rule (2011-2016) was received to the party by union ministers Rajeev Chandrasekhar, V Muraleedharan, Prakash Javadekar MP, Anil Antony, national general secretary and Radhey Shyam Aggarwal MP. The Pioneer had reported early last month that George was all set to join the BJP. A crusader against corruption

and a fire brand leader, George was the first Christian leader to sound the alarm bell against Love Jihad and Narcotics Jihad which was later taken up by the spiritual leaders of the Catholic community to which he belongs. He also merged the Janapaksham, a political outfit launched by him into the BJP. George's son Shaun and the entire Janapaksham leaders too joined the BJP. "This decision is a fall out of our understanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the only national leader who is working sincerely for the progress of India. More and more members of the Christian community will join the BJP in days to come," said George after joining the BJP.



Both the CPI (M) and the Congress aided by Islamist forces had joined hands in the 2021 assembly polls to defeat George, in his eighth hustling in the electoral battle and he lost the poll by a wafer thin majority. Having joined the Kerala Congress as a fiery student leader, George won seven successive elections to the assembly, a rare feat in a State like Kerala. George is joining the BJP at a time when the Marxists and Congress are blaming the BJP for the communal pogrom in Manipur. "The people in Kerala are not aware of the complex reality of the caste politics in Manipur. The entire media has gone gaga over the embarrassment faced by the

BJP due to the Manipur riots. The reality is entirely different and I myself will clear the apprehension in the minds of the community in Kerala," George told The Pioneer. Interestingly, there were suggestions from various Hindu outfits in Kerala to field George as a candidate for the Lok Sabha polls from P a t h a n a m t h i t t a constituency. George said there is no difference between the CPI(M)-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF. "Both the forces are the same and the dofference is only on their names. What they have been doing all these years was to cheat the people," he said. K T Paily, a former official of Indian Railways who is an

active leader of the Catholic community, said George is a force to reckon with in Kerala politics. "But I am not sure about the surge in votes cast during the election. George commands respect all over the State," said Paily. The Christian Alliance for Social Action (CASA) welcomed George's move to join the Hindutva party. "It will pay rich dividends and there is a possibility of the BJP opening its account in Kerala," said Kevin Peter, president, CASA. Father Shaiju Kurian, a priest of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and 47 families belonging to the sect had joined the BJP in December 2023, the first of its kind development in the State.'

Farmers income 'has almost doubled' since 2018: Yogi



PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said the farmers income "has almost doubled" since 2018 and this "positive trend" extends beyond Uttar Pradesh. The chief minister said the farmers across the country are embracing agricultural diversification, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "visionary approach", consequently "doubling their income". Inaugurating the 'Kisan Mela' organised by the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) on Picnic Spot Road here, Adityanath highlighted Prime Minister Modi's transformative vision. The chief minister, according to a press statement issued by the state government, elaborated on how the prime minister set the target of doubling the farmers' income by 2022 and subsequently launched various schemes such as the Soil Health Card, Prime Minister Crop Insurance, Agricultural Irrigation, and Kisan Samman Nidhi for steering the farmers toward economic upliftment, coupled with a robust integration of scientific research and innovation. Underlining the tangible impact of these initiatives, Adityanath said the farmers' income has almost doubled since 2018. "This positive trend extends beyond Uttar Pradesh as the farmers across the country are embracing agricultural diversification, aligning with Prime Minister Modi's visionary approach,

consequently doubling their income," he said. Highlighting the fertile land and abundant water resources in Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister outlined the state's pivotal role in agricultural production, contributing over 22 per cent of the country's food grains despite having 11 per cent cultivable land. He noted the presence of 89 agricultural science centers and four state agricultural universities, with the establishment of the fifth one underway. Adityanath stressed the government's proactive role in connecting the farmers of Uttar Pradesh to medicinal farming and horticulture, and promoting herbal products. This diversification, he explained, has significantly increased the farmers' earnings, becoming a transformative catalyst in improving their lives. The chief minister also inaugurated an exhibition at the fair and inspected the stalls set up while interacting with the farmers. Notably, over 4,000 farmers from more than 15 states participated in the fair. The CIMAP will also launch an 'Aroma Mission App' for the farmers involved in cultivating medicinal plants. This app will act as a bridge between the farmers and the industry. Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Director General N Kalaiselvi and a large number of farmers from different states and districts of the country were present in the programme.

Gujarat to bring resolution praising PM for Ram temple



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A resolution praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the consecration of Ram temple in Ayodhya will be introduced during the budget session of the Gujarat assembly beginning February 1, a state minister said. The state budget for FY 2024-25 will be presented on February 2. On the other hand, the opposition Congress said they will corner the BJP government on a range of issues including inflation, unemployment, and the recent boat capsized tragedy in a lake in Vadodara, resulting in the death of 12 students and two teachers. The budget session will start with the customary address of Governor Acharya Devvrat. "On the first day, the governor will present the previous year's achievements of the state government in his address to the House," Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Rushikesh Patel told reporters in Gandhinagar on Wednesday. Finance Minister Kanubhai Desai will present the budget on the next day (Feb 2). The budget will reflect the vision of

the state government for the next year and a road map for the next 25 years, he said. "In view of the consecration ceremony of Lord Ram temple in Ayodhya, a resolution praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be brought on February 5," said Patel, who is also the government spokesperson. Considering a representation by MLAs, no sitting of the assembly will be held on Saturdays as announced earlier, he added. The budget session will conclude on February 29. According to officials, a bill proposing amendments to the 'Gujarat Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Laws' has been cleared by the Assembly Secretariat for discussion so far. Some more bills will be cleared later, they added. "Despite tall claims by the BJP government, unemployment is still rampant in the state and events like the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, held in January, only benefited businessmen, not our youths. Congress MLAs will also raise the issue of deaths of 12 students and two teachers in the Vadodara boat capsized incident", said Gujarat Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi.

Sita Soren opposes any move to make Kalpana CM



PTI ■ RANCHI

Amid hectic political activities and questioning of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren by the ED here on Wednesday, a rift has emerged in his family with his sister-in-law and JMM MLA Sita Soren openly opposing any move to make his wife Kalpana the state chief minister. The objection comes against the backdrop of strong rumours and the BJP claim that Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana will be the first choice for the chief minister's post in case her husband was arrested. Kalpana Soren was also present at the meeting of alliance legislators at the CM's residence on Tuesday. Talking to PTI over the phone, Sita Soren, widow of former chief minister Shibu Soren's elder son Durga, said: "I would like to ask why only Kalpana Soren, who is not even an MLA and has no political experience. Under what circumstances her (Kalpana's) name is being touted as the next chief minister when there are so many senior leaders in

the party." MLA from the Jama assembly seat, Sita Soren, who was out of the city for some personal reasons, was not present in the Tuesday meeting. "I will strongly protest any move to make her CM...", said Sita, who has been an MLA for nearly 14 years. "There are several senior leaders, who could be given the reins of the party. If they want to elect from a family, I am the senior-most in the house and have been an MLA for around 14 years," she said. A senior leader who did not wish to be quoted said several MLAs were absent during the Tuesday meeting at CM's residence here. Earlier this month, Soren had dismissed speculations of his wife contesting from the Gandey assembly constituency and had termed it as a "complete imagination" of the BJP. "Possibility of my wife contesting in the near future is a complete imagination of the BJP... The speculation about handing over reins to her is a fabric woven by the BJP to build a false

narrative," the chief minister had told PTI. The speculations were triggered by the Enforcement Directorate's recent summons to the chief minister coupled with the sudden resignation by the ruling JMM's Gandey MLA Sarfaraz Ahmad in December. The opposition BJP has claimed that Ahmad was made to quit so that the chief minister's wife could contest from the Gandey in case of any eventuality in connection with the ED summonses. Earlier, the ED had recorded the statement of the 48-year-old chief minister on January 20 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The investigation pertains to a "huge racket of illegal change of ownership of land by the mafia" in Jharkhand, according to the agency. The ED has, so far, arrested 14 people in the case, including 2011-batch IAS officer Chhavi Ranjan who served as the director of the state's social welfare department and deputy commissioner of Ranchi.

Three Rohingya men get 10 years jail for human trafficking



PTI ■ NUH

A court in Haryana's Nuh district has sentenced three Rohingya men to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment in a human trafficking case of 2021. Additional district and sessions judge Ajay K Verma pronounced the sentence on Tuesday. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on each of the convicts. According to public prosecutor Pratap Singh, the Child Welfare Committee of Nuh had received secret information in February 2021 that two young Bangladeshi women had been brought to India by some people via Mizoram and Kolkata. According to the police, a Rohingya man identified as Mohammad Ayas had brought the women, aged 19 and 20, to Nuh from Delhi. Later, Mohammad Ayas and two other Rohingya men —

Hafeez Ahmed and Mohammad Yunus — took the two women to Malab village in Nuh district and decided to sell them in Kashmir Valley for Rs 70,000 each, the police said. Acting on the information, a team of the Child Welfare Committee conducted raids at their place in Malab and rescued the women. Following medical examination, it was revealed that the two women were raped and tortured. An FIR was registered under relevant provisions of the IPC at the City police station in Nuh and the three accused were arrested in December 2021. The accused had confessed to the crime and were sent into judicial custody, the police said. "During the trial, the prosecution proved all the charges," the public prosecutor said.

PETA seeks ban on buffalo, Bulbul fights; Gauhati HC to hear pleas

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has approached the Gauhati High Court seeking a ban on traditional buffalo and Bulbul bird fights, which were restarted in Assam after a gap of nine years. Filing two separate writ petitions (WP(C) No.: 466/2024 and 468/2024), PETA India alleged numerous violations of the central law in the conduct of these events and submitted their investigations into these two types of fights in Assam. In its first hearing on Tuesday, a single-judge bench of Justice Manish Choudhury heard both the sides and fixed February 1 as the next date for the two linked petitions. The petitions were filed against the Assam government, represented by the chief secretary, commissioner and secretary of the home and political department, and the Animal Welfare Board of India. "Buffaloes and Bulbuls are gentle animals, who feel pain and terror, and don't want to be forced into bloody fights in front of jeering crowds. "PETA India hopes the Gauhati High Court will recognise that this cruelty is a clear violation of central law and prohibit these violent fights," PETA India Advocacy



Associate Tushar Kol said in a statement. The petitions to the HC pointed out that the buffalo and Bulbul fights violate the Constitution of India, The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and several judgments of the Supreme Court of India. "PETA India also notes that such fights are inherently cruel, cause immeasurable pain and suffering to the animals forced to participate, and contradict the tenets of ahimsa (non-violence) and compassion, which are integral to Indian culture and tradition. "Allowing these events to continue is a regressive step, which threatens to undo almost a decade of progress in human and animal rights," the organisation said. On January 15, traditional Bulbul bird fights were organised after a hiatus of around nine years following a

new set of guidelines issued by the Assam government. It was earlier stopped due to restrictions imposed by the judiciary. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his family members had visited Hayagriva Madhav temple at Hajo in Kamrup district and witnessed the bird fight with hundreds of visitors on Magh Bihu day. "Breathing life into our ancient customs and rituals has been a cornerstone of our policies. After nearly a decade, I was able to witness the bulbuli fight, a quintessential Bihu tradition which was recently revived by our government," he had said after watching. Likewise, the government's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) also allowed buffalo fights, which took place on January 16 in Morigaon, Sivasagar and some Upper Assam districts, with some precautions.



A woman prepares handmade ornaments on the sidelines of the 47th International Kolkata Book Fair, in Kolkata on Wednesday

PTI

Maliwal asked to take oath of office twice after 'inquilab' sloganeering

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Swati Maliwal, former chief of the Delhi Commission For Women (DCW), took oath as Rajya Sabha MP on Wednesday but that came out with a minor controversy. Maliwal, who is known for her blatant statements on issues concerning safety of women, had to take the oath of office twice as after her first oath she raised slogan 'Inquilab Zindabad'. Besides Maliwal, two others - Narain Dass Gupta, Satnam Singh Sandhu- became the first three members to take the oath as MP in the new Parliament building. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar asked AAP leader Swati Maliwal to take oath twice because of two reasons. First, she took the wrong oath initially as she read the version of



the oath meant for nominated Rajya Sabha members. The second reason was unwarranted sloganeering. Maliwal was elected to Rajya Sabha unopposed. Her party colleague and financial policy expert, Narain Dass Gupta, also took the oath who will be in his second term in the Upper House.

FIRST COLUMN

THE DIVINE WISDOM OF BHAGAVAD GITA

The Gita implores us to recognise the significance of fulfilling our duties



Let me start with verse # 3.8 of the Bhagavad-Gita, which is, “You should always do your duty. Because action is superior to inaction. Maintenance of the body will also not be possible through inaction.” We all know what our duties are according to time, place and circumstances. We also know that neglecting our duties impacts our maintenance. For example, a student does not pay attention to his studies. What happens subsequently? He finds it hard to maintain himself. For whose benefit was this verse spoken? Let me take another verse, which is very famous. I am referring to verse #2.47, which goes like this, “You have a right only in action, not ever in predetermining fruits. You should not speculate about the fruit of action; your attachment to inaction also should not be there.” For whose benefit was this verse spoken? Do we really have any other right except to do our duties? And we must not neglect to do them. As regards the results of our actions, the right to decide them has been kept by God with Himself. Can you imagine what will happen if all of us are free to decide the results? Complete chaos. And who will lose in such chaos? We will. The third verse chosen by me is very telling, in which Lord Krishna promises, “People who worship Me with undivided attention, meditating on Me, for these regular practitioners of yoga, I help in getting what one does not have and provide security of what one has.” This is wonderful. What more could we ask for? Therefore, do what the Lord instructs. How else to decide about who deserves such enormous mercy? Verse after verse the Lord is cajoling us to do what will fulfil all our desires, which are according to dharma. God couldn’t be a party to anything against dharma. Could He?



The fourth verse in this connection is: “Where there is yogeshwara Shri Krishna and where there is Arjuna (meaning us), there will be opulence, victory, wealth and morality.” (18.78) What are our desires generally? That we should succeed in our endeavours. We would if we were aiming for what is according to morality, i.e. dharma. The same is about wealth. Don’t we need enough resources for our maintenance? Not only wealth, there will be ‘saubhagya’ (good fortune). Who benefits from all these? We do; God doesn’t because He is complete in all respects. (3.22) The next verse is about gaining peace and a perfect destination. Lord Krishna instructs, “In all respects, take My shelter only. By My mercy, you will achieve supreme peace and the eternal abode.” What is it that we lack after gaining material needs, comforts, etc.? It is peace, which is what God is promising. Not only that, God is also assuring eternal abode, which is free from the defects of this material world. How nice it will be to not be subjected to repeated birth and death? God is prepared to grant this also. As a matter of fact, God is always wanting to give. He has so much to give if we become deserving. Isn’t that fair? How do we become deserving? Lord Krishna describes, “Develop My consciousness; become My devotee; make sacrifices for Me; and offer obeisance to Me.” (18.65) One may feel that all these activities relate to God. No, far from it; they only purify our existence. I will take up one more verse, which is, “Having My consciousness, you will cross all impediments by My grace.” (18.58) This is quite an amazing offer from God. Aren’t we all struggling with one problem or another throughout our lives? We do, but our ego comes in the way. We are not prepared to accept that somebody can be superior to us and to such an extent that we have to take His shelter and His alone. (18.66) We would rather suffer but won’t do as instructed by God. Do we realise that our acts will benefit the world if we obey God’s instructions? We will become better persons by following dharma.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views are personal)

Tread the WTO quagmire with caution

The battle for a permanent solution to Public Stock-Holding programme is a difficult one; India must fight it deftly

In a meeting of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) – held on October 2, 2023, in Geneva, the European Union (EU) agreed to consider India’s demand for a permanent solution to public stock-holding (PSH) program for food security. This is a significant change of stance since March 2023, when the EU along with the USA and Canada had challenged it. The issue will be taken up for deliberation in the 13th ministerial conference (MC) of the WTO (World Trade Organization), scheduled from February 26-29, 2024 in Abu Dhabi. The MC is the highest decision-making body of the global trade watchdog (read: WTO) that includes 164 member countries. While, the USA and EU countries want a comprehensive discussion on agriculture encompassing the value-chain, market access, and export restrictions besides the PSH program, India has categorically stated “it won’t negotiate any other issue in the agriculture sector till a permanent solution on PSH is found”.

It has also conveyed that support measures given to its poor farmers like input subsidies such as on electricity, irrigation, fertilizer and even direct transfers are non-negotiable. Under the PSH program, government agencies like the Food Corporation of India (FCI) buy agri-produce such as wheat, rice/paddy, and coarse cereals from farmers at the minimum support price (MSP) and distribute it at a subsidized price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg respectively to meet the needs of India’s poor and vulnerable population under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) that was enacted in 2013. From January 1, 2023, these staple foods are given to the beneficiaries ‘free’; initially in force till December 31, 2023, this arrangement has been continued for five years till December 31, 2028. The excess of MSP plus handling, storage and distribution cost over the realization from the sale (that is, Rs 2/3/1 per kg prior to January 1, 2023, and ‘zero’ thereafter) is paid as a subsidy from the Union Budget. This can be bifurcated into two components (a) subsidy to the farmer, which is the excess of MSP of, say, rice over its international price also known as External Reference Price (ERP) in WTO parlance and (b) subsidy to the food consumer, being the excess of ERP over the price paid which currently is ‘nil’. The WTO is concerned with (a) branded as “product-specific” subsidies. It requires some explanation. The international price/ERP of any commodity is based on global demand-supply forces and is determined in a competitive manner. All farmers irrespective of their country of location are expected to receive this price. In case, because of the intervention by the government of a member country say India, the farmers therein receive a price/MSP higher than this, they are presumed to have been subsidized to the extent of excess of MSP over ERP. The WTO is also concerned with subsidies on agricultural inputs like fertilisers, seeds, irrigation, power, etc., referred to as “non-product specific” subsidies. The developed countries argue that such subsidies distort international trade; hence these need to be curbed. Their argument found acceptance at the WTO.



ONE WONDERS WHETHER A MERE DECLARATION BY PRIVATE TRADERS ACQUIRING SUCH STOCKS WOULD SATISFY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN INSTANCES OF HEAVILY SUBSIDISED FOOD (NOW FREE) BEING SMUGGLED TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Accordingly, under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), the total of product and non-product-specific subsidies or aggregate measurement support (AMS) is capped at 10 per cent of the value of agricultural production for a developing country (for developed countries, this threshold is 5 per cent). If a member country gives AMS over 10 per cent, it is a violation. The AoA came into force in 1995. For India, until 2005, MSP was less than ERP. Thereafter, MSP has been higher than ERP and, in the last decade, this gap widened. During 2018-19, in the case of rice, for instance, AMS was at 11 per cent, exceeding the 10 per cent cap. During 2019-20, it was even higher at 13.7 per cent. For over a decade or so, India along with other developing countries has been making efforts at WTO to wriggle out of the situation. In the 9th Ministerial Conference (MC) held in Bali (2013), it secured sanction for a “peace clause”. It said, “If a developing country gives AMS in excess of 10 per cent, no member will challenge this until 2017 when the WTO would look for a permanent solution.” In the General Council (GC) held in December 2014, this sanction was modified to say “The peace clause will stay till a permanent solution was found.” However, the peace clause comes with several riders, such as the submission of data on food procurement, stockholding, distribution and subsidies. These also include establishing that subsidies are not “trade distorting.” Besides, programs implemented after 2013 are not covered under the ambit of the ‘peace clause’.

India has invoked the ‘peace

clause’ several times at the WTO for breaching the 10 per cent ceiling in case of subsidy on rice - the latest being for the marketing year 2020-21. However, developed countries have objected to such invocation. They want India to be more transparent about its PSH program and put in place safeguards to prevent ‘illegitimate’ exports. But, this can’t go on ad infinitum. The WTO should go for a permanent solution within a time-bound manner. In fact, the MC held in Bali (2013) had implicitly given a deadline of 2017 “.....no member will challenge this until 2017 when the WTO would look for a permanent solution.” Unfortunately, the GC held in December 2014 deferred it indefinitely. India has done right by insisting on a deadline now. However, its stance for the 13th MC isn’t the right way to go. India is trying to delink PSH from a comprehensive look at agriculture. It is attempting to delink things that are intertwined with each other. The PSH program involves buying food from the farmers and distributing it to the beneficiaries. Here, we are talking about the entire supply chain involving procurement, handling, storage, distribution and so on. So, the issues of market access, and sale in the domestic and international markets can’t be brushed aside. India’s PSH program is open-ended under which the government’s agencies buy the highest possible quantities of wheat and rice from the farmers at ever-increasing MSP. Since these purchases are unrelated to the requirement under the NFSA (courtesy vote bank politics), sur-

plus stocks with agencies are inevitable which they dispose of by auctioning to private traders etc under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). Under OMSS ‘all the bidders are compulsorily asked to give an undertaking that they won’t export it’. One wonders whether a mere declaration by private traders acquiring such stocks would satisfy the developed countries. We have also seen instances of heavily subsidized food (now free) being smuggled to neighbouring countries. It won’t come on record but it disturbs the global demand-supply equation. India should put everything on the table and talk. It is widely recognized that the formula for the computation of AMS under the AoA suffers from several flaws. The ERP used for comparing with MSP (albeit current) dates back to 1986-88. This is bound to “artificially” inflate the subsidy. By using the current ERP, India’s subsidy will automatically go below the 10 per cent threshold. Besides, AoA calculation doesn’t exclude subsidies given to resource-poor farmers. These farmers mostly produce food for self-consumption meaning they don’t have a surplus to sell. So, the question of subsidies to them distorting trade doesn’t arise. Their exclusion will also reduce the AMS. Meanwhile, the government should end the open-ended procurement and restrict purchase only to what is required for giving to the NFSA beneficiaries. It should also consider switching to ‘giving subsidy in cash’ using DBT mode.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Nitish’s ninth move on Bihar’s political chessboard

With Nitish Kumar’s latest move, Bihar has witnessed a seismic shift, with ramifications extending far beyond the State’s borders

The political chessboard of Bihar has recently witnessed a profound transformation, sending ripples across the entire nation. As the Lok Sabha elections loom on the horizon, every twist and turn in Bihar’s political saga holds the potential to significantly impact the grand political finale. Nitish Kumar’s latest move, switching sides for the fifth time in just over a decade and assuming the Chief Minister’s role for the ninth time, has added an intriguing layer to the unfolding drama. While Nitish’s political acrobatics have grabbed the spotlight, the BJP’s strategic gamble in this intricate game has not gone unnoticed. Amidst the evolving scenario, questions arise about Nitish



Kumar’s commitment to social justice, considering his shifting allegiances and recent embrace of temple politics. The perplexity deepens as Bihar grapples with the implications of this political manoeuvre on the Mandal forces, reflecting the state’s political narrow-mindedness and the weakening influence of caste arithmetic. The focus now shifts to the RJD, founded on the accomplishments of

the charismatic Lalu Yadav, whose legacy seems at odds with its preparedness for the future. While Nitish manages to retain power through an alliance with the expanding BJP, questions persist about his credibility, especially in comparison to the broader social coalition led by the RJD. The isolation of the RJD in Bihar and the BJP’s steady progress as a formidable alternative force set the stage for a crucial message ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The recalibration of the “social justice” agenda, impacted by Nitish’s move, necessitates a reassessment of the BJP’s influence in this domain. The political dynamics have shifted beyond the tradition-



al Mandal vs. Mandir narrative, evolving into a complex interplay of Mandal vs. Mandal and Mandir plus Mandal, with “good governance” emerging as a pivotal factor. Nitish Kumar’s decision to realign with the BJP becomes a litmus test for the leadership of Tejashwi Yadav, the young successor of the RJD, who faces the challenge

of navigating a family feud and maintaining the party’s political standing. As Tejashwi positions himself as a “development man,” distancing from his father’s rule characterized as “jungle raj,” the RJD embarks on a campaign to showcase its achievements, especially in job creation. The political chess match intensifies, with Tejashwi asserting that the game has just begun, and the RJD will strategically reveal its cards in due course. The RJD’s shift toward economic justice signals a new direction, expanding its support base beyond traditional voters. The repercussions of Bihar’s political upheaval reverberate nationally, drawing reactions from prominent leaders

across party lines. As Bihar’s political maestro, Nitish Kumar, navigates through another historic yet controversial chapter in his two-decade-long career, the political landscape awaits the settling of dust from Sunday evening’s events. In the intricate tapestry of Bihar’s political narrative, Nitish Kumar’s recent manoeuvre stands as a pivotal chapter, influencing not only the state’s dynamics but resonating across the national political spectrum. As the dust settles on the dramatic events of Sunday evening, Bihar finds itself at a crossroads, with implications stretching far beyond its borders. The ever-evolving alliances and strategic shifts have re-

defined the contours of political discourse, challenging conventional narratives of Mandal, Mandir, and governance. Nitish Kumar’s alliance with the BJP, marked by its expanding influence in the state, prompts a reevaluation of political equations and the potential impact on the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Tejashwi Yadav, stepping into the limelight as the face of the RJD, navigates the party through the challenges of a family feud, asserting a commitment to economic justice and development. The RJD’s attempt to redefine its image, distancing from the perceived shortcomings of the past, sets the stage for a renewed political strategy. As Bihar becomes a battle-

ground of ideologies, the reactions from national leaders underscore the significance of these developments. The shift from social justice to economic justice, coupled with the evolving political landscape, necessitates a recalibration of strategies for all stakeholders. In the end, Bihar’s political arena remains unpredictable, with each move sparking debates and reflections on the past, present, and future of the state’s political trajectory. As the nation watches the unfolding drama, the implications of Bihar’s political metamorphosis will continue to resonate, shaping the contours of Indian politics in the days to come.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

Imran, wife sentenced to 14 years in prison

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were sentenced on Wednesday to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment each in a corruption case, a day after the beleaguered leader was given a 10-year jail term for leaking state secrets.

The verdict by an accountability court, which comes eight days before the February 8 general elections, has added to the legal woes of the 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician's bid to return to power. Khan is already serving a three-year jail term after being convicted of corruption in a separate Toshakhana case on August 5 last year.

Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) faced numerous troubles before the election starting with the denial of its election symbol, the cricket bat, to the rejection of nomination papers of Khan, former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and several other party leaders. Accountability Court Judge Mohammad Bashir conducted the hearing at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, where Khan is incarcerated.

In the Toshakhana corruption case, he was accused of retaining expensive state gifts they received during his tenure as Pakistan's premier from 2018-2022. Khan and his wife were also barred from holding any public office for 10 years and slapped with a fine of Rs 787 million each. Bushra Bibi, 49, did not appear before the court on Wednesday.

At the outset of the hearing, Judge Bashir asked Khan if he recorded his statement. To this, the former premier said that he would submit his statement once his lawyers came. "I have been deceived as I was only called to mark my attendance for the hearing," Khan said. Following the verdict, Bushra Bibi arrived at the Adiala jail and surrendered before the authorities.

"Why are you in a hurry? Even yesterday, the conviction was announced in haste," the ex-prime minister said, referring to the verdict in the cipher case a day earlier. "My lawyers are not here yet. I will submit the statement after showing it to them when they come,"

TOSHA KHANA CORRUPTION CASE



Imran said, adding that he had appeared before the court only to mark his attendance.

He then exited the courtroom, after which the court sentenced the ex-premier and his wife in absentia. Khan won the election in 2018 on a ticket of anti-corruption, but has been embroiled in political controversy and alleged corruption cases since he was dramatically ousted in a parliamentary no-confidence vote in April 2022. Reacting to the verdict, PTI's current chief Gohar Khan said the judgment only served to lower the respect of the judiciary. "The accused were not given time and the process was hurried to conclude the trial," he said, adding that the defence was not given the right of cross-examination. "Complete destruction of every existing law in Pakistan in 2 days. Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi have faced yet another kangaroo trial in which no right to defence was given to both. Like cipher, this case has no basis to stand in any Higher court. It's shameful how a complete disregard and mockery of law is in place," PTI said in a post on X. Separately, the PTI in a statement said that these decisions, reached in haste, cannot impact the fervour, any PTI supporter talks of, around election time.

It alleged that the star witness was changed and a witness who's a part-time worker did an evaluation of gifts by showing photos, while no cross-questioning was allowed, no final argument concluded and decision popped up like a predetermined process in play.

"This ridiculous decision will also be challenged," the

party announced. Khan's sister Aleema Khan said that the "judicial system has buried itself" today. Last month, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) filed a fresh case against the two in an accountability court for retaining a jewellery set which included necklaces, earrings, bracelets and a ring worth Rs 1.57 billion received from the Saudi crown prince against undervalued assessment. Khan and Bushra had only paid Rs 9 million and had fixed the price of the jewellery set through a private firm, reports said. The sentence comes just a day after a special court established under the Official Secrets Act sentenced Khan and Qureshi to 10 years in prison for the breach of state secrets. The latest conviction and sentencing are Khan's third since 2022 when he was ousted from power in 2022.

Previously, Khan was convicted in the Toshakhana case on August 5, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. The previous Toshakhana case was filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan in the charges of hiring the sale of state gifts. According to reports, Khan and his wife received 108 gifts from various heads of state, out of which they kept 58 gifts. They were also undervalued by them while paying a mandatory price to the state.

Under the rules governing Toshakhana - a Persian word meaning "treasure house" - government officials can keep gifts by paying a price for them but first the gift should be deposited. The two either failed to deposit the gift or got it for a low price by allegedly using their authority.

Court reserves verdict in Imran Khan & wife's marriage case

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani high court on Wednesday reserved its verdict on a petition seeking the dismissal of a case challenging the 'un-Islamic' marriage of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan to his third wife, Bushra Bibi. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case filed by Bibi's ex-husband, Khawar Maneka, in November last year, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

It sought legal action against 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party supremo Khan for marrying his present wife while she was reportedly on iddat period. The iddat period (three months) is a waiting period that a Muslim woman must observe on account of the death of her husband or the dissolution of the marriage.

During the hearing on Wednesday, PTI party lawyer Salman Akram Raja said that the case was only aimed at humiliating the petitioners, highlighting that the complaint against Khan's marriage was filed five years and 11 months after the nikkah in November 2023. The counsel for Maneka told the court that witnesses had testified in the trial court that Bibi was in another marriage with Imran at the time of their marriage ceremony, the report said. Following arguments by the counsels of both parties, the court reserved a verdict on the case, it said.

Earlier this month, a trial court indicted Khan and Bibi in the marriage case. Bibi, 49, hails from a family of landowners in Punjab. Her first marriage, which lasted about 30 years, was to Maneka, who is from a politically influential Punjab family. Earlier in the day, an accountability court sentenced the former prime minister and his wife, Bibi, to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment in a corruption case. In the Toshakhana corruption case, the jailed PTI founder was accused of retaining expensive state gifts they received during his tenure as Pakistan's premier.

EU leaders exhort allies to do more for Ukraine

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The leaders of five European Union countries urged their neighbours and allies Wednesday to ramp up military support for Ukraine, while the bloc's defence ministers debated ways to help meet the war-ravaged country's ammunition shortfall. In their appeal, the leaders of the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany and the Netherlands warned that Europe's security is tied to the fighting that started almost two years ago with Russia's invasion of its neighbour.

"Our ability to continue to support and sustain Ukraine's defense, both during the winter and in the longer term, is decisive," they wrote in the Financial Times newspaper. "In fact, it is a matter of our common European security." With neither Russian nor Ukrainian troops demonstrating an advantage in the drawn-out conflict, fears are growing

that public support for Ukraine's war effort is waning. EU and NATO leaders, who are among Ukraine's main backers, have shifted from praising the country's battlefield gains to celebrating its ability to survive against a more powerful enemy.

The prospect of Donald Trump returning to the White House after the US presidential election in November is also driving leaders and military officers to demand that Europe must do more to defend itself. During his last term, Trump undermined confidence among NATO allies that the US would back them in a security crisis.

In the Financial Times, the five leaders said it was vital to speed up arms deliveries up given that the war was unlikely to end soon. "Russia doesn't wait for anybody, and we need to act now. If Ukraine loses, the long-term consequences and costs will be much higher for all of us," they wrote. "We Europeans have a special responsibility. Therefore, we

must act. Europe's future depends on it."

According to EU estimates, Ukraine was firing around 4,000 to 7,000 artillery shells each day last summer, while Russia was launching more than 20,000 shells a day in its neighbour's territory. Russia's arms industry far outweighs Ukraine's, and Kyiv has relied on Western help to match Moscow's firepower.

Yet the 27-nation EU's plans to produce 1 million artillery rounds for Ukraine have fallen short, with only about a third of the target met. Senior EU officials have said they now expect the European defence industry to be capable of producing around 1 million shells annually by the end of this year. But the shells will not arrive quickly. NATO's procurement agency said last week that delivery of ammunition orders can take anywhere from 24 to 36 months. Even the five leaders conceded that deliveries could take a year.

Hungary opposes billions in new EU aid for Ukraine

AP ■ BRUSSELS

European Union leaders at a summit on Thursday will focus on the one member state blocking a 50-billion-euro (USD 54 billion) war support package for Ukraine: Hungary, the country in the bloc with the closest ties to Russia. Almost two years after Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the invasion of Ukraine, the war has ground to a virtual stalemate and Ukraine desperately needs financial assistance.

"Securing agreement is vital for our credibility, and not least for our commitment to provide steadfast support to Ukraine," EU Council president Charles Michel said in his invitation letter to leaders of the 27-member bloc. The aid requires unanimous support. But Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban vetoed it at a previous summit in December and continues to oppose it.

"In December, we still had a little time. But from March onwards, Ukraine will start

running into difficulties according to international financial institutions," a senior EU diplomat warned ahead of the meeting in Brussels. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in accordance with EU practices. For most EU countries, helping Ukraine is crucial to protect the bloc from Russia's threats and maintain its credibility on the global stage.

"Ukraine is on European soil. It is a European country. And if we want a peaceful and stable Europe, we need to be credible in terms of our own security and defense vis-à-vis all our neighbours," French president Emmanuel Macron said. Orban has repeatedly angered EU leaders since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. He criticised EU sanctions on Russia as being largely ineffective and counter-productive. He pushed for peace talks between Moscow and Kyiv, though he hasn't detailed what that might mean for Ukraine's territorial integrity.

At the previous EU summit, however, Orban did not

prevent the EU from starting membership negotiations with Ukraine. Concerned about democratic backsliding by Orban's government, the EU has frozen Hungary's access to tens of billions of euros in funds. Hungary, with its own economic concerns, has responded by vetoing some EU political decisions.

Instead of unlocking the new aid for Ukraine, Orban has proposed to split it into annual tranches and introduce a review mechanism. But that idea has not been well received because it would allow Orban to block the money later.

If the stalemate remains, it will not mean that Ukraine will suddenly be deprived of EU assistance. The EU diplomat said leaders will make sure it won't impact Ukraine in the short term. The 26 other countries could decide, on a voluntary basis, to decouple the aid from the EU budget. But it's not their favourite option since it would require approval from several national parliaments, creating more uncertainty.

Russian lawmakers approve bill to confiscate assets of people who 'discredit' army

Moscow (AP): The lower house of Russian parliament on Wednesday approved a bill that would allow the confiscation of money, valuables and other assets from those convicted on charges of spreading "deliberately false information" about the country's military. The State Duma swiftly voted to approve the bill, which is now expected to quickly sail through the upper house and be signed by President Vladimir Putin.

Duma speaker Vyacheslav Volodin has said that the new law would apply to people who are convicted of publicly inciting "extremist activities" or calling for actions that would hurt the security of the state, as well as "discrediting" the armed forces. Discrediting the armed forces is a criminal offense under a law adopted as part of a sweeping government crackdown on dissent after Moscow sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022. "Everyone who tries to destroy Russia, who betrays it, must suffer the deserved punishment and pay compensation for the damage inflicted on the country, at the cost of their property," Volodin said. The proposed law does not appear to include real estate among the assets that can be seized. The existing law against "discrediting" the Russian military, which covers offenses such as "justifying terrorism" and spreading "fake news" about the armed forces, has been used extensively to silence Putin's critics.

RUSSIA SAYS IT HAS SWAPPED 195 POWS WITH UKRAINE

Kyiv (AP): Russia's Defence Ministry says Russia and Ukraine have exchanged 195 prisoners of war each. The Russian Defence Ministry said the swap was conducted on Wednesday. The announcement came a week after Russia alleged that Ukrainian forces shot down a military transport plane carrying Ukrainian prisoners of war who were to be swapped for Russian POWs. The Defence Ministry said that missiles fired from across the border brought down the transport plane in Russia's Belgorod region on January 24.

Chinese rocket scientist expelled from advisory body

Beijing (PTI): China's national political advisory body has expelled a prominent Chinese rocket scientist from its Standing Committee for corruption, as the People's Liberation Army continues the purge of its missile force previously headed by the dismissed defence minister Gen. Li Shangfu. The decision to expel Wang Xiaojun from the 14th Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) was taken at its meeting here on Monday, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The Standing Committee is composed of a core group of senior members. Wang is formally expected to be expelled from the CPPCC during its annual session here next month as the Standing Committee doesn't have the power to do so. Wang's expulsion is considered significant as he led the development of the Long March 7 rockets used to carry essential supplies to China's under-construction space station called Tiangong, as well as

launching satellites. Besides being the leading rocket scientist, Wang also led the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, a premier research body.

His expulsion followed the government's probe into allegations of corruption against the top officials of the Chinese military's key wing, the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force.

It adds to the mystery of last month's major purge of the Chinese military in which nine senior generals of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), including senior officials of the country's Rocket Force, were dismissed from China's Parliament—the National People's Congress (NPC). The Force, which handles the PLA's missiles division, was previously headed by former Defence Minister Gen. Li Shangfu, who was summarily dismissed last year on the charges of corruption. The dismissal of Li, whose whereabouts are not known yet, came after that of Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who met a similar fate.

China defends President Xi accepting Af Taliban envoy's diplomatic credentials

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Wednesday defended its President Xi Jinping receiving the credentials from the official of the Taliban-headed interim government in Afghanistan, saying that it is a "normal diplomatic arrangement" and urged the international community not to exclude the Afghan militant group even though it is yet to respond to global concerns.

Xi on Tuesday received the credentials of ambassadors from several countries, including from Bilal Karimi, the Taliban-appointed Afghan ambassador in what was termed the first diplomatic recognition of the Taliban government in Kabul, which is yet to get official recognition internationally. "It's a normal diplomatic arrangement for China to receive the new ambassador to China sent by the Afghan interim government and for him to present his credentials to the

Chinese leader," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here on Wednesday. When asked to state clearly if the move amounts to recognition of the Taliban government, he said, "You asked whether China officially recognises the Afghan interim government? I would like to say that China believes that Afghanistan should not be excluded from the international community." China is committed to a foreign policy of friendship towards all Afghan people and has maintained diplomatic ties and exchange and cooperation in various areas with Afghanistan, Wang said.

"We hope that the international community will step up engagement and exchange with the Afghan interim government, encourage it to actively respond to international concerns, jointly help with Afghanistan's reconstruction and development, and sup-

port Afghanistan's effort to combat violent terrorist forces and contribute to regional peace, stability and prosperity," he said. Without referring to the global concerns over the Taliban's ban on women's education and work and its disinclination to share power with other political groups in the war-torn country, Wang said China hopes Afghanistan will further respond to the expectations of the international community.

Meanwhile, Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's chief spokesperson, on Tuesday said, "China has understood what the rest of the world has not."

"We are not in a unipolar world," he posted on X, while calling on Russia, Iran and other countries to take similar steps and upgrade bilateral diplomatic relations with Kabul. According to the state-run Xinhua news agency, Xi told the new ambassadors that China is seeking deep friendship and

mutually beneficial cooperation with their countries. Matthew Miller, spokesperson for the US State Department, said whether Beijing has officially recognised the Taliban regime is for Chinese officials to clarify.

"I have seen some comments from them to the contrary," Miller told Voice of America (VOA) on Tuesday. For the US, Miller said, the Taliban's relationship with the international community depends on their actions. "China may be getting ready to break ranks and take the final technical step either within the UN system or outside of it through a bilateral initiative," Omar Samad, a former Afghan ambassador was quoted as saying by VOA. China along with Pakistan and Russia maintained its embassy in Kabul after the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021, following the withdrawal of American troops from the country.

UN's top court is ruling in a case in which Ukraine accuses Russia of backing terrorists

The Hague (AP): The United Nations' top court is ruling on Wednesday in a case in which Ukraine accuses Russia of bankrolling rebels in 2014 and discriminating against Crimea's multiethnic community since its annexation of the region. It is the first of two decisions by the International Court of Justice linked to the decadelong conflict between Russia and Ukraine that exploded into a full-blown war nearly two years ago.

Wednesday's legally binding final ruling comes in a case filed in 2017, accusing Moscow of breaching conventions against discrimination and the financing of terrorism. Kyiv wants the court to order Moscow to pay reparations for attacks and crimes in eastern Ukraine, including the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, which was shot down by Russia-backed rebels on July 17, 2014, killing all 298 passen-

gers and crew. At hearings last year, a lawyer for Ukraine, David Zions, said that pro-Russian forces in eastern Ukraine "attacked civilians as part of a campaign of intimidation and terror. Russian money and weapons fuelled this campaign." Among the attacks was the downing of MH17. A Dutch domestic court convicted two Russians and a pro-Moscow Ukrainian in November 2022 for their roles in attack and sentenced them in their absence to life imprisonment. Also, the Netherlands and Ukraine are suing Moscow at the European Court of Human Rights over MH17. Russia denies involvement.

Another lawyer for Ukraine, Harold Koh, said that in Crimea, Russia "sought to replace the multiethnic community that had characterised Crimea before Russia's intervention with discriminatory Russian nationalism."

Billionaire Sultan Ibrahim sworn in as Malaysia's 17th king

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

The billionaire sultan who rules Malaysia's Johor state was sworn in as the nation's new king on Wednesday under a unique rotating monarchy system. Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, 65, took his oath of office at the palace and signed the instrument of the proclamation of office in a ceremony witnessed by other royal families, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Cabinet members. A coronation ceremony will be held later.

One of the richest men in the country, Sultan Ibrahim has an extensive business empire ranging from real estate to telecoms and power plants. The candid monarch has close ties with Anwar and his rule

could bolster Anwar's unity government, which faces a strong Islamic opposition. Nine ethnic Malay state rulers have taken turns as king for five-year terms under the world's only such system since Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957. Malaysia has 13 states but only nine have royal families, some that trace their roots to centuries-old Malay kingdoms that were independent states until they were brought together by the British.

Sultan Ibrahim's election to the national throne by his fellow rulers in October was widely expected based on an established rotation order. Sultan Nazrin, the ruler of Perak state and next in line to the throne, was reelected as deputy king.

KING'S ROLE

Known as the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, or He Who is Made Lord, the king plays a largely ceremonial role, as administrative power is vested in the prime minister and Parliament. The monarch is the nominal head of the government and armed forces, and is highly regarded as the protector of Islam and Malay tradition. All laws, Cabinet appointments and the dissolution of Parliament for general elections require his assent. The king has the power to proclaim an emergency and pardon criminals.

Sultan Ibrahim succeeded Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah of Pahang state, who presided over a tumultuous period that included COVID-



19 lockdowns and political instability. The political influence of the king has grown in recent years. Sultan Abdullah intervened in the past to decide who became prime minister, including naming Anwar as prime minister after 2022 general elections led to a hung parliament. Sultan Ibrahim has indicated he will maintain a hands-on approach. He said in a media interview last month that he would not want to waste five years on the throne as a "puppet king" but will focus on fighting graft and deepening unity in the country. The sultan and other rulers have also warned against attempts by the opposition to oust Anwar's government, calling instead for political stability.

WHO IS SULTAN IBRAHIM?

Sultan Ibrahim, whose mother is English, is also vocal about welfare issues and takes annual road trips on his motorbike to meet the people in his state. He has also made no secret of his wealth. Earlier Wednesday, the sultan flew from Johor to Kuala Lumpur on his private jet, a gold-and-blue Boeing 737. Apart from a fleet of jets, he has an extensive collection of cars and motorcycles, as well as properties abroad. Sultan Ibrahim is also the only ruler with a private army — a condition agreed upon for the state to join modern-day Malaysia. Sultan Ibrahim's high corporate profile — including a stake in the multibillion-dollar Forest City

development project in Johor with China's beleaguered developer Country Garden — has raised eyebrows amid concerns of a possible conflict of interest. He has said in the media interview recently that he plans to revive a high-speed rail link project with Singapore and bolster the troubled Forest City project.

But the sultan has defended his business dealings. In 2015, he quipped that he has to "earn a living, like ordinary Malaysians" as he cannot rely on his 27,000 ringgit (\$5,700) monthly state allowance. His wife Raja Zarith Sofiah, who is from another royal family, is an Oxford graduate and a prolific writer who has authored several children's books. They have five sons and a daughter.

Blame game erupts between Maldives ruling, oppn parties

PTI ■ MALE

Hours after the Prosecutor General of Maldives was attacked by unidentified persons on Monday, a blame game has erupted between the ruling and the opposition parties that called the attack “politically motivated,” according to local media and social media reports. “Prosecutor General Hussain Shameem was attacked on a street in Male City. He is receiving treatment for his injuries at the ADK Hospital,” Sun.mv, a news portal, said.

Former Maldivian president Ibrahim Mohamed Solih described the attack as “politically motivated,” prompting the Home Minister Ali Ihusan to ask him to share information to back his claim. In a post on X, Solih, also the interim leader of the largest opposition outfit, the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), said: “Politically motivated acts of violence have no

place in a democratic society and I call on the government to be swift in bringing the perpetrators to justice.”

Home Minister Ali Ihusan asked Solih to share information to back his claim that the violent attack on Prosecutor General Shameem was politically motivated. Responding to Solih’s post on X from his official designation’s handle of Minister of Homeland Security and Technology, Ihusan said, “Maldives police (@PoliceMv) is currently investigating this case. Former President declaring that the attack was ‘politically motivated’ suggests that former President has credible information about motive and people behind this attack.”

“I would like to request former President to please share the credible information referred here with the Police immediately. I have asked investigators to coordinate with former Presidents office in this regard. Police is treat-

ing this case as top priority and will bring perpetrators to justice,” he said.

Meanwhile, condemning the attack on Shameem, the MDP said in a statement: “The alleged close ties between top government officials and criminal gangs were resulting in open violent assaults on top state officials.” The MDP accused President Muizzu’s administration of failing to provide proper protection to officials charged with fulfilling constitutional duties and responsibilities.

“This party also notes that after having successfully driven down violent assaults in the Maldives during the former administration, such crimes have increased after President Muizzu took office,” the portal reported, quoting the MDP statement.

Muizzu, considered to be close to China, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held in

September last year. “This party believes that such fearless attacks on top state officials are a result of the close ties that top government officials have with criminal groups operating in the Maldives, and because of the protection the government provides these criminal groups,” the opposition party said

The MDP also called on the government “to sever its alleged ties with criminal groups,” and to run a proper investigation into the attack on Shameem and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Prosecutor General’s Office (PGO) said in a statement that Shameem was attacked with a weapon by two people on a motorbike. “While neither the PGO nor the police have specified the type of weapon used, a police spokesperson had said earlier that they had ruled out the use of a sharp-edged weapon,” the news portal said.

EU aims to launch Red Sea naval mission within 3 weeks

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union plans to launch a naval mission in the Red Sea within three weeks to help defend cargo ships against attacks by Houthi rebels in Yemen that are hampering trade and driving up prices, the bloc’s top diplomat said Wednesday.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said he wants the mission to be up and running by February 17. Officials say that seven EU countries are ready to provide ships or planes. Belgium has already committed to send a frigate. Germany is expected to do the same. Last week, US and British forces bombed multiple targets in eight locations used by the Iranian-backed Houthis. It was the second time the two allies have conducted coordinated retaliatory strikes on the rebels’ missile-launching capabilities. The Houthis have waged a persistent campaign of drone and missile attacks on commercial ships since the start of the Israel-Hamas war



in October, but Borrell insisted that the EU mission will not take part in any military strikes. “This is the purpose: protection of the ships. Intercepting of the attacks against the ships. Not participating in any kinds of actions against the Houthis. Only blocking the attacks of the Houthis,” Borrell told reporters before chairing a meeting of EU defence ministers in Brussels.

The ministers were expected to decide later on Wednesday which member country should lead the naval effort — France, Greece and Italy are vying for that role —

and where the mission’s headquarters should be based.

Borrell said that businesses have been demanding EU action, given the trade implications of forcing merchant ships to bypass the Red Sea on their way to and from Europe.

“Many European firms asked us to do that because their business model is suffering a lot due to the high increase in cost and having to go down to South Africa,” he said, referring to the alternative route that commercial ships are taking. “It’s affecting prices, it’s affecting inflation. So, it’s a natural endeavor for us to try to avoid this risk.”

US announces overhaul of its annual lottery for H-1B visas

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has announced a major overhaul of its annual lottery for the H-1B speciality occupation visas, popular among Indian IT professionals, to curtail the potential for fraud and improve and streamline the registration system. Separately, the US on January 29 has formally launched a pilot programme to renew the much sought-after H-1B visas domestically, a move that is likely to benefit thousands of Indian tech professionals.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. The new overhauled system, among other things, includes the provision of a beneficiary-centric selection process for registrations by employers. As a result, unlike in

the past when multiple applications by an individual often resulted in abuse in fraud of the system, the H-1B visa applications would now be counted and accepted based on individual applicants.

Even if one individual files multiple applications for various companies, they would be counted as one application based on their personal credentials like passport numbers.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) also announced a set of new rules which are aimed at strengthening the integrity of and reducing the potential for fraud in the H-1B registration process.

This includes reducing the potential for gaming the registration system and ensuring each beneficiary would have the same chance of being selected, regardless of the number of registrations submitted on their behalf, the federal agency said on Tuesday.

“We’re always looking for ways to bolster integrity and

curtail the potential for fraud while improving and streamlining our application processes,” said USCIS Director Ur M Jaddou.

“The improvements in these areas should make H-1B selections more equitable for petitioners and beneficiaries and will allow for the H-1B process to be fully electronic based on registration, if applicable, until final decision and transmission of approved petitions to the Department of State,” he said. USCIS also said the initial registration period for the fiscal 2025 H-1B cap will open at noon on March 6 and run through March 22.

During this period, prospective petitioners and their representatives, if applicable, must use a USCIS online account to register each beneficiary electronically for the selection process and pay the associated registration fee for each beneficiary.

Starting February 28, companies will be allowed to open their account which can be used

to start and complete the registration process.

USCIS said this final rule contains provisions that will create a beneficiary-centric selection process for registrations by employers, codify start date flexibility for certain petitions subject to the congressionally mandated H-1B cap, and add more integrity measures related to the registration process. According to USCIS, under the beneficiary-centric process, registrations will be selected by a unique beneficiary rather than by registration. This new process is designed to reduce the potential for fraud and ensure each beneficiary would have the same chance of being selected, regardless of the number of registrations submitted on their behalf by an employer, it said.

Starting with fiscal 2025, which begins on October 1, 2024, initial registration period, USCIS will require registrants to provide valid passport information or valid travel documentation for each beneficiary.

The passport or travel document provided must be the one the beneficiary, if or when abroad, intends to use to enter the United States if issued an H-1B visa. Each beneficiary must only be registered under one passport or travel document, it said.

USCIS is also clarifying requirements regarding the requested employment start date on certain petitions subject to the congressionally mandated H-1B cap to permit filing with requested start dates that are after October 1 of the relevant fiscal year, consistent with current policy. Also, the H-1B final rule codifies USCIS’ ability to deny or revoke H-1B petitions where the underlying registration contained a false attestation or was otherwise invalid. Also under the new rule, USCIS may deny or revoke the approval of an H-1B petition if

it determines that the fee associated with the registration is declined, not reconciled, disputed, or otherwise invalid after submission, it said.

In a statement, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Director of Government Relations Sharvari Dalal-Dheini said the new H-1B registration process will revise how lottery registration is run and create a more equitable system.

“After last year’s registration period, when more than 750,000 registrations were submitted for 85,000 visas, it was clear that the existing system was unworkable. AILA and our partners advocated for exactly the sort of changes announced in this rule;

changes that will ensure a beneficiary-centric lottery process to level the playing field,” she said. “It is commendable that DHS took steps to shift from a flawed model to one that will create a fairer system in time for this year’s registration period,” Dalal-Dheini said.

Meanwhile, the pilot programme to renew the much sought-after H-1B foreign work visas domestically will allow H-1B visa holders who are currently in status to renew their visas in the US before a temporary trip abroad. An announcement in this regard was made during the historic State visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June last year.

Notices under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No. LBPNP0004952659, LBND00005332938, LBPNP0004952664 Name of the Borrower Rajeev Ahuja/ Rekha Rani/Versha Rani property HOUSE NO 231 EWS, MEASURING 51.25 SQ YARD, SITUATED IN HOUSING BOARD COLONY PANIPAT WITHIN THE LIMIT OF M.C. ABADI KNOWN AS WEAVERS COLONY TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PANIPAT HARYANA and 13.2 dispatch date is May 09th, 2023, were published as Demand Notice under section 13(2) dated May 03rd, 2023 & Symbolic notice under 13(4) dated November 05, 2023 and same was also published in The Pioneer + Uttam Hindu 13(2) notice publication dated July 12, 2023 & 13(4) notice publication dated November 09, 2023 respectively. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said notices and address mentioned as, PART OF HOUSE NO 842, WARD NO 7, INSIDE MC LIMITS PANIPAT HARYANA, measuring area 31 Sq Yard And 13.2 Dispatch date mentioned in publication as May 03rd 2023. We therefore, request you to please read the HOUSE NO 231 EWS, MEASURING 51.25 SQ YARD, SITUATED IN HOUSING BOARD COLONY PANIPAT WITHIN THE LIMIT OF M.C. ABADI KNOWN AS WEAVERS COLONY TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PANIPAT HARYANA and 13.2 dispatch date is May 09th, 2023.



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

Notices under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No. LBPNP0004952659, LBND00005332938, LBPNP0004952664 Name of the Borrower Rajeev Ahuja/ Rekha Rani/Versha Rani property HOUSE NO 231 EWS, MEASURING 51.25 SQ YARD, SITUATED IN HOUSING BOARD COLONY PANIPAT WITHIN THE LIMIT OF M.C. ABADI KNOWN AS WEAVERS COLONY TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PANIPAT HARYANA and 13.2 dispatch date is May 09th, 2023, were published as Demand Notice under section 13(2) dated May 03rd, 2023 & Symbolic notice under 13(4) dated November 05, 2023 and same was also published in The Pioneer + Uttam Hindu 13(2) notice publication dated July 12, 2023 & 13(4) notice publication dated November 09, 2023 respectively. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said notices and address mentioned as, PART OF HOUSE NO 842, WARD NO 7, INSIDE MC LIMITS PANIPAT HARYANA, measuring area 31 Sq Yard And 13.2 Dispatch date mentioned in publication as May 03rd 2023. We therefore, request you to please read the HOUSE NO 231 EWS, MEASURING 51.25 SQ YARD, SITUATED IN HOUSING BOARD COLONY PANIPAT WITHIN THE LIMIT OF M.C. ABADI KNOWN AS WEAVERS COLONY TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PANIPAT HARYANA and 13.2 dispatch date is May 09th, 2023.

Date : February 01, 2024
Place : Delhi

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

10k Indian construction workers to reach Israel



PTI ■ JERUSALEM

With Israel’s construction sector suffering a severe manpower crisis post the October 7 conflict with Hamas, some 10,000 workers from India are to make their way here starting next week, industry sources said on Wednesday. These 10,000 workers will reach in batches of 700 to 1,000 a week, a source in the Israel’s Builders Association (IBA) told PTI here.

With Israel’s latest conflict with Hamas in Gaza a little short of four months, and a ban on the entry of Palestinian workers and the departure of several thousand other foreign workers, the Israeli construction industry has been facing a deep crisis and several ongoing projects are getting either stalled or delayed.

Following the conflict, Israel has banned the entry of Palestinian workers. The departure of several thousand other foreign workers, the Israeli construction industry has been facing a deep crisis.

Israeli business daily The Calcalist in a report in Hebrew last week said that the quota of foreign manpower for the construction industry has been increased from 30,000 to 50,000 and that the Israeli government last month approved the arrival of 10,000 workers from India. The IBA source confirmed to PTI that the details in the Calcalist report

were correct.

When asked about the arrival of the first batch of workers, the source said, “We hope they’ll come next week.”

The workers to arrive in Israel would be part of the private recruitment track, which was approved by the government in parallel with the bilateral (inter-governmental) track to enable rapid recruitment of workers into the construction industry.

The IBA is looking to hire workers also from other countries such as Mexico, Kenya and Malawi. Screening of workers is said to have begun three weeks ago in India, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan. “To date, out of about 8,000 workers examined, about 5,500 have been found suitable for work in Israel – the vast majority Indian,” The Calcalist had reported.

“The Indian construction workers are at a high professional level. Many of them were previously employed in the Gulf countries, so these are skilled manpower. Most of them are fluent in English, and those who have worked in the Gulf also know Arabic, which is a great advantage,” an industry source was quoted by the business daily as saying.

The selection process is led by IBA’s CEO Igal Slovik and Izchak Gurvitz, who heads the associations’ division dealing with workers’ issues and the selection team.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client Sh. Manish Juneja S/o Sh. Prithvi Raj Juneja, R/o A – 1/73A, Maa Shakti Apartment, Near Maa Kali Mata Mandir, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi – 110063 do hereby declare that the companies namely (i) Juneja & Bhel Trading (OPC) Pvt. Ltd., (ii) ZIRPHIMATIC traders Pvt. Ltd., (iii) Shum – Star Globewell Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd., are not belongs to my client as some people on the pretext of job take his sign on some unknown papers and make him director of the companies. He is not responsible for the acts of the said companies.
Piyush Sharma (Advocate)
(D/1395/2021)
Chamber No. F-611
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-32

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No. EM/WSO-II/Sweeping Machine/02/2023/
Date: 29.01.2024
e-TEN No. EM/WSO-2024
Name of the work “Hiring of 01 no. of Truck Mounted Conveyerised Mechanical Road Sweeping Machine for a period of (03+02)years”. Estimated cost: **Rs.6,61,00,020/-** excluding GST and cost of Diesel. Last date & time of submission of bid: **dt. 19.02.2024 up to 18:00 Hrs.**
Refer our website for details
<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>
Sd/- Executive Engineer (M)
Workshop Division-II
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/81/2023-2024 dtd.31.01.2024

THE PIONEER
CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mudrit Bhardwaj S/o Shri Satish Kumar Sharma R/o B-63, Manas Apartment, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1 Extension, Delhi-110091, have changed my name Mudrit Bhardwaj to Mudrit Bhardwaj for all future purposes

PD(254)C

कार्यालय नगर निगम, हरिद्वार
पत्रांक- 503 / संदीपो / 2023-24 पुनः ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक- 31.01.2024

नगर निगम हरिद्वार द्वारा स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण-2024 हेतु परामर्श सहायता एवं अन्य समस्त कार्य कर्म के माध्यम से कराये जाने हेतु www.uktenders.gov.in पर ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है जिसका विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

S.No.	Scheduled/Information	Date	Time
1	Date of Online publication	01.02.2024	01:00 PM
2	Document Online Download start Date	01.02.2024	01:00 PM
3	Bid submission Online Start Date	01.02.2024	02:00 PM
4	Bid Submission Online End Date	09.02.2024	02:00 PM
5	Offline Submission of Hard/Original copy of Contract End date	09.02.2024	03:00 PM
6	Bid opening Date	09.02.2024	04:00 PM

निविदा की विस्तृत जानकारी www.uktenders.gov.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। उक्त तिथियों/निविदा में कोई भी संशोधन मात्र www.uktenders.gov.in पर ही Publish किया जायेगा।

सहायक नगर आयुक्त
नगर निगम हरिद्वार

verka
Hear from us, Hear the Difference

THE PUNJAB STATE CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX No. 0172-5041812,66
Notice Inviting Tender
www.verka.coop

e/sealed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Mohali Dairy. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Polyfilm/Polyliner scrap.• Disposal of other Unservicable material lying in main store/Procurement store.	Annual 12 lac 8 lac
2.	For Verka Chandigarh Dairy. Manual Tenders:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lids for Ice Cream cups (65ml & 80 ml)• Lids for Ice Cream cones (125ml)	Annual/ 12 lac 8 lac
e-Tenders:-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chikki• Krisp Refined Palm kernel Oil• Mango Pulp- Concentrate• Ice Cream Cones with foil wrappers(125ml)(Butterscotch, Chocolate & Cookie delight)	Annual
3.	For Verka Patiala Dairy. Labour contract for providing of unskilled, semi skilled, skilled, highly skilled and suitable/eligible personnel for different posts through outsourcing.	Annual
4.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy. Operation, Repair and Maintenance of Pouch filling Machines, Tray washer.	Annual/ 35000 ltr. to 70000 approx.ltr per day
5.	For Verka Ludhiana Dairy a) Outsourcing the activity for Housekeeping and Horticulture work. b) Supply, Installation and Commissioning of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GLC Machine• RP-HPLC Machine.	Annual One time purchase 01 No. 01 No.
6.	For Verka Amritsar Dairy Hiring of can route vehicles for lifting of milk from DCS to MCC (Capacity: 1 ton & above 2 ton).	Annual/ 53 No's
7.	For Verka Jalandhar Dairy. Providing Un-skilled, Semi- skilled, Skilled, Highly skilled labour through service provider who is having EPF/ESI no. and labour providing License.	Annual/ As per requirement

NOTE:
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

Office of The General Manager (Admin), Head Office
Uttarakhand PEYAL NIGAM, 11-MOHINI ROAD, DEHRADUN
Off. Ph. : 2678078, 2672404 | Fax : 0135-2672347 E-mail : upsnvgn@gmail.com

Letter No. 49 / Nivida / 27
E-Tender Notice
Date: 31.01.2024

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakhs) (Including GST)	Completion Period (in month)
1	Construction of Proposed Type-2 Qtr. For Fire Station, SIDCULAt Haridwar (Uttarakhand)	249.10	12
2	Construction of Proposed Type-2 Qtr. For Fire Station, MayapurAt Haridwar (Uttarakhand)	334.76	12
Name and Address of Officer Inviting the Bid :-		General Manager (Admin), Head Office, Uttarakhand Peyal Nigam, Dehradun.	
Date and Time of Availability of bid documents in the portal :-		01.02.2024 - 12:00 Hrs.	
Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal:-		19.02.2024 - 17:00 Hrs.	

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal “<https://uktenders.gov.in>”

MOULIN COMMERCIAL LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1982PLC067811
Regd Office: 1, Anand Gram, Aya Nagar, Mehrauli, Gurgaon Road, New Delhi-110047
Company's website : www.moulin.co.in

Extract of Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended December 31, 2023
(Amount in lakhs except EPS)

S. No	Particulars	Quarter ended 31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	Nine months ended 31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31.12.2022 (Unaudited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	29.59	86.30	21.88
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	12.50	27.84	6.29
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	12.50	27.84	6.29
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	9.13	20.34	4.72
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	10.37	20.34	4.74
6	Equity Share Capital (Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (Not annualised)	57.30	57.30	57.30
7	Basic:	1.81	3.55	0.83
	Diluted :	1.81	3.55	0.83

NOTES:
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter ended 31.12.2023 Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarter ended 31.12.2023 Unaudited Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange and of the listed entity, i.e., www.moulin.co.in.
b) Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended 31st December, 2023 were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their respective meetings held on 30th January, 2024.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
sd/-
Ashish Gupta
Managing Director
DIN: 00115090

Date : 01.02.2024
Place : Kolkata

Import duty on mobile parts cut to 10 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day ahead of the interim budget, India has slashed the import duty on spare parts, like battery cover, lens and SIM socket, used in mobile phone manufacturing to 10 per cent, from 15 per cent. The duty cut is aimed at boosting local production and exports, as well as reducing prices in local markets. The finance ministry on January 30, notified the cut in duty on all goods for use in manufacture of cellular mobile phones to 10 per cent. The other components include battery cover, front, middle and back cover of phone, main lens, screw, SIM socket, or other mechanical items. Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in a post on X said the duty rationalisation would strengthen the mobile phone

manufacturing ecosystem through this measure. “Rationalization of customs duties brings much-needed certainty and clarity for the industry,” Vaishnaw said. GTRI Co Founder Ajay Srivastava said the duty cut will have no impact on improving export competitiveness of mobile phones made in India as all inputs, parts, and components used in the making of mobile phones for exports can already be imported at zero duty under various government schemes like SEZ, Advance authorisation. Firms like Apple use these schemes. “The government should watch out if the benefit of duty cuts are passed to domestic mobile phone buyers through price cuts,” Srivastava said. The Indian Cellular and Electronics Association



(ICEA) Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo said this is a critical policy intervention by the government towards making mobile manufacturing competitive in India. “Electronics have improved from the 9th position a few years ago to India’s 5th largest export in 2024. Mobiles

constitute over 52 per cent of electronics exports thanks to the Production-Linked Incentive Scheme. This is the first industry to leapfrog out of import substitution to export-led growth within the last 8 years,” Mohindroo said. Nangia Andersen India Associate Director- Indirect

Tax, Khushbu Trivedi, said, the import duty on components like battery covers, main lenses, back covers, and other plastic and metal mechanical items has been decreased to 10 per cent with corresponding inputs/ parts used in manufacturing of a few components brought down to nil duty rate in order to promote local manufacturing. Additionally, duties on display assembly parts for LCD panels have been reduced to 10 per cent for better alignment. “The government has in effect slashed the import duty on mobile components with a clear intention of boosting the indigenous assembly of mobile phones. This positive move is poised to facilitate level playing field to Indian companies by enhancing their competitiveness at the global stage, ultimately contributing

to the growth of India’s export sector,” Trivedi added. SW India Practice Leader - Indirect Tax Ankur Gupta said in pursuit of becoming the world’s fourth-largest cellular mobile phone exporter, India is strategically working towards curbing the import of mobile phone components as finished products. “The government is redirecting its focus towards importing raw materials to stimulate domestic manufacturing of these crucial components. The implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is a pivotal step taken by the government to incentivize manufacturers within the mobile phone industry, encouraging not only the assembly of complete devices but also the production of individual parts,” Gupta said.

RBI bars Paytm from accepting deposits after February 29

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI on Wednesday barred Paytm Payments Bank Ltd from accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer account, prepaid instruments, wallets, and FASTags, among others after February 29, 2024. The Reserve Bank’s action against Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) follows a comprehensive system audit report and subsequent compliance validation report of the external auditors. These reports revealed persistent non-compliances and continued material supervisory concerns in the bank, warranting further supervisory action, the RBI said in a statement.

“No further deposits or credit transactions or top ups shall be allowed in any customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags, NCMC cards, etc. After February 29, 2024, other than any interest, cashbacks, or refunds which may be credited anytime,” it said. The central bank further said withdrawal or utilisation of balances by its customers from their accounts including savings bank accounts, current accounts, prepaid instruments, FASTags, National Common Mobility Cards are to be permitted without any restrictions, up to their available balance. The RBI in March 2022 had directed PPBL to stop onboarding new customers with immediate effect.



4 members of Finance Commission appointed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has appointed former expenditure secretary Ajay Narayan Jha and SBI Group Chief Economic Advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh, and two other members of the newly-constituted 16th Finance Commission. The commission, chaired by former vice chairman of Niti Aayog Arvind Panagariya, will have 4 members, who will be assisted by Secretary Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey, two joint secretaries and one economic advisor. Besides Jha, who was also a member in the previous 15th Finance Commission, retired bureaucrat Annie George Mathew and Artha Global Executive Director Niranjani Rajadhyaksha have been appointed as full-time members of the 16th Finance Commission. Soumya Kanti Ghosh will be a part-time member, the finance ministry said in a notification. “The chairman and other members of the commission shall hold office from the date on which they respectively assume office up to the date of submission of report or

October 31, 2025, whichever is earlier,” the notification added. The government constituted the commission under the chairmanship of Panagariya on December 31, 2023. The panel would submit its report to the President by October 31, 2025. The report would be covering five-year period beginning April 1, 2026. Besides suggesting tax devolution between the Centre and states and revenue augmentation measures, the commission would review the present arrangements for financing disaster management initiatives with reference to the funds constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on centre-state financial relations. The erstwhile 15th Finance Commission under NK Singh had recommended that states be given 41 per cent of the divisible tax pool of the Centre during five-year period 2021-22 to 2025-26, which is at the same level as was recommended by 14th Finance Commission under Y V Reddy.

India gold demand dips 3 per cent in 2023

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India’s gold demand witnessed 10n-year decline of 3 per cent at 747.5 tonnes in 2023, and going ahead the spurt in demand could be anywhere between 800-900 tonnes, if prices hold out and are not significantly volatile, the World Gold Council said in a report. The country’s total gold demand stood at 774.1 tonnes in 2022, according to the World Gold Council (WGC) Gold Demand Trends report 2023. “India’s gold demand in 2023 declined by 3 per cent to 747.5 tonnes, strongly influenced by rising gold prices. Although consumer interest remained high, it lagged trade sentiment. October’s price correction during Navratri stimulated a robust consumer response,

boosting Diwali sales in November. “However, demand declined in December as gold prices resumed an upward trend, resulting in a 9 per cent drop in fourth quarter jewellery demand compared to the same period of 2022,” WGC Regional CEO, India, Somasundaram PR told PTI. Price of gold was volatile throughout 2023, with the yellow metal reaching a new high of Rs 61,845 per 10 gm on May 4 in the domestic market and USD 2,083 an ounce in global markets, and this trend continued with the precious metal reaching another high of Rs 61,914 per 10 grams in November 16. Looking forward to 2024, India’s gold demand should benefit from ongoing positive economic conditions and if the



prices hold out are not significantly volatile there is likely to be a big spurt in demand which could be anywhere between 800-900 tonnes, he said. “The subdued demand range of 700-800 tonnes since 2019 attributable to continuous rise in prices, increase in duties, stock market outperformance,

near-term elections spending impact and acceptance of elevated price levels, suggest the potential for a spurt in demand in the near future. However, any short-term impediments to higher demand could arise from another round of sharp price hikes and volatility triggered by global factors,” he added.

The total jewellery demand in India dropped by 6 per cent to 562.3 tonnes in 2023, compared to 600.6 tonnes in the previous year, the report stated. Meanwhile, the total gold investment demand in the country grew by 7 per cent to 185.2 tonnes, compared to 173.6 tonnes in the previous year, the WGC report said. “Bar and coin investment in India rebounded, growing by 7 per cent to 185 tonnes year-on-year. The fourth quarter demand touched 67 tonnes, 64 per cent above the five-year quarterly average. “The correction in gold prices led to some robust investment responses in third and fourth quarters, supported by increased interest from physically backed gold ETF investors, setting total holdings

in Indian-listed products to a record 42 tonnes by year-end,” Somasundaram said. He said that recycling was 20 per cent higher due to low and supportive higher prices but at 117 tonnes, could be considered the normative expected level. Total gold imported to India in 2023 was 780.7 tonnes, up by 20 per cent compared to 650.7 tonnes in 2022, according to the report. “Net gold imports surged by 20 per cent to 780.7 tonnes in 2023, primarily due to substantial inventory building by the trade. “In 2024, gold imports are likely to be higher than the demand. The various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) India has inked with many countries are expected to boost gold imports further this year,” noted Somasundaram.

ADB mobilises ₹1,250 crore through green bonds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank on Wednesday said it has garnered Rs 1,250 crore (about USD 150 million) through its largest local currency green bond issue so far. The issue is structured as a 4-year currency linked bond, with a one-time repayment at maturity and carrying a fixed interest rate of 6.72 per cent per year, ADB said in a statement. The bond is denominated in Indian rupees but settled in United States dollars, with returns to investors indexed to the performance of the Indian currency, it said. Such bond structures are popularly known as masala bonds in the Indian financial community, it said. Proceeds of the green bond will be deployed to finance ADB’s private sector renewable energy and green finance projects, which adhere to ADB’s priority



for tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability, it said. “Sustainability is a key driver for international capital markets, and ADB is long established as a regular issuer of green bonds. The ability to finance climate change projects with local currency green bonds represents the apex of our ambition, while contributing to capital market development,” said ADB Treasurer Pierre Van Peteghem. The bond is listed on the Luxembourg

Stock Exchange. It was arranged by Standard Chartered Bank and subscribed by a group of the UK and US investors. Investors were drawn to the benchmark size for a local currency bond with a green theme backed by a multilateral development bank. ADB has been a frequent borrower in the Indian rupee bond market, debuting in the domestic bond market in 2004 and completing multiple masala bond issues since 2014 to raise more than USD 1 billion equivalent. The latest bond offering represents ADB’s return to the Indian rupee bond market after a 3-year hiatus. ADB issued its first local currency green bond in Indian rupees in 2017. ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members-49 from the region.



India sees 46 per cent of world total real time digital transactions, says Murmu

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has emerged as the world’s second-largest producer of mobile phones and logged a five-fold increase in mobile phone manufacturing in the last decade, President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday, outlining the global acknowledgement of India’s prowess in digital transactions and systems. Her first address to a joint sitting of the two Houses in the new Parliament building resonated with references to the rapid expansion of the startup ecosystem, nation’s AI push, speedy 5G roll-out, as well as the semiconductor sector investments. Today, 46 per cent of the world’s total real-time digital transactions take place in India, she said, adding India is among the leading digital economies globally. “Digital India has made life and business much easier in India. Today, the whole world acknowledges this as a great achievement of India. Even developed countries do not have a digital system like India has,” she said. Murmu noted that a record 1,200 crore transactions were done through UPI last month. “This amounts to a record transaction of Rs 18 lakh crore,” she said. Further, India achieved the fastest 5G roll-out in the world, the President said, adding that the Digital Personal Data Protection Act will make the digital space more secure. The startup ecosystem has expanded, growing from only a few hundred startups in the country to more than one lakh today. “Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaigns have become our strengths. Today, India is the

world’s second-largest producer of mobile phones. During the last decade, there has been a five-fold increase in mobile phone manufacturing,” she said. Highlighting India’s digital clout, she said other countries of the world are also now providing the facility of transactions through UPI. Digital India has made banking more convenient and disbursement of loans easier. The Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity has helped curb corruption, weeding out fake beneficiaries, and Rs 2.75 lakh crore of public money was prevented from going into the wrong hands. “My government has so far transferred Rs 34 lakh crore through DBT. Thanks to Jan Dhan Aadhar Mobile (JAM), about 10 crore fake beneficiaries have been weeded out from the system. This has helped prevent Rs 2.75 lakh crore from going into wrong hands,” the president said. The facility of DigiLocker is also making life easier, she said, adding over 6 billion documents have so far been issued to its users. Digital Health IDs of around 53 crore people have been created under Ayushman Bharat Health Account. “The number of broadband users has increased 14 times. Nearly 2 lakh village panchayats of the country have been connected with optical fiber. More than 4 lakh common service centres have been opened in villages. These have become a major source of employment,” she said. The government has focused on building modern facilities for remote and faraway islands like Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep, which had been deprived of development.

Hoteliers expect lenient tax

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hoteliers are expecting a more lenient tax structure and an increased allocation in Union Budget 2024-25, which will give a boost to the tourism industry. Amandeep Singh Grover, General Manager of Hilton Goa is hopeful of reforms that standardize offerings within the tourism sector. “This could involve streamlining processes, enhancing infrastructure, and ensuring a consistent and high-quality experience for tourists. Standardization would not only elevate the overall appeal but also position the country as a more enticing destination for travellers, ultimately driving growth and

sustainability in the hospitality sector,” he said. Also, a more lenient tax structure would make hospitality services more accessible and attractive to tourists. “Outbound tourism is rapidly picking up especially with many countries implementing ‘visa-free’ or ‘visa-on-arrival’ strategies, it is important for us to be competitive and relax taxation and make it lucrative for travellers,” he added. Shilpi Khanna, General Manager at Hyatt Centric, Juhu said, “Operational costs in hotels are a big challenge for us. As costs rise, people’s spending power will decrease because of inflation,” Khanna noted that the hospitality industry was the

worst-hit sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. 2023 was a good comeback year for the sector, but it still could not cover the losses. “Our appeal to the government is to please look after the taxation policy of the country. We are looking for lower income tax for the smoothness of the business,” she said. Khanna suggested that the government should relax taxes on LTAs (Leave Travel Allowances) so that travel and tourism are encouraged, which will provide a big boost to the hotel industry. She also called for an increased budget allocation for the industry. Harkaran Singh Seth, General Manager of Radisson Blu

Mumbai International Airport said, “The hotel industry is the seventh pillar of the country. There should be multiple bodies to look after the hotels for ease of business. There should be a single window for approval of our projects, for faster implementations. It will create easier ways for cash flow and contribution towards the economy.” Singh said that easier loans will create more opportunities for the industry. He emphasised on increasing the budget allocation for the sector, saying that the allocation should be increased to Rs 3,000-3,500 crore. “Reducing LTA would help every employee for the future. Domestic tourism should also be increased by the government,” Singh added. He also emphasised on a single-window approval system.



Mercedes-Benz sets eyes on smaller cities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

German carmaker Mercedes-Benz is looking to expand its presence in the smaller cities in India where demand for luxury models is expected to grow robustly over the next few years. The automaker, which on Wednesday introduced new GLA and AMG GLE 53 models, plans to enhance its sales and service infrastructure in the non-metro cities to cater to the needs of the increasing number of customers. “We are clearly seeing that there is a lot of growth happening in mini metros in India and we are now increasing customer car parc in these cities,” Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director & CEO Santosh Iyer told PTI in an interaction. To cater to the needs of the customers, the company is opening up 20 new workshops in 10 new cities like Jammu, Kanpur and Patna, he added. “So we are very clear that in these mini metros, customers should not be driving a car for more than two hours to get the service done. So you want to go

closer to these customer pockets,” Iyer said. The penetration of luxury cars in such cities remains low as compared to the metros and thus offers more opportunities for growth, he noted. For Mercedes, top metros currently account for around 70 per cent of the sales annually. “Rest 30 per cent comes from...Mini metros and other smaller markets,” Iyer stated. The luxury car market in India accounts for just over 1 per cent of the total passenger vehicle sales of around 40 lakh units annually. Mercedes-Benz is currently the leading player in the market. Iyer said for Mercedes-Benz in the eight large cities and metros, the penetration level is at 2.5 per cent but in the smaller cities and towns, it is at 0.4 per cent. On Wednesday, the company launched the new GLA SUV priced between Rs 50.5 lakh and Rs 56.9 lakh (ex-show-rooms). The AMG GLE 53 4MATIC price starts at Rs 1.85 crore. It can be customised with over 7,000 combinations with prices going up to Rs 2.2 crore.

Markets settle one per cent higher

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices climbed near- by 1 per cent on Wednesday on buying in HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries. Investors are eyeing the two important events lined up ahead — the interim budget and the US Fed interest rate decision — to derive further cues from. Recovering all the early lost ground, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 612.21 points or 0.86 per cent to settle at 71,752.11. During the day, it zoomed 711.49 points or 1 per cent to 71,851.39. The Nifty climbed 203.60 points or 0.95 per cent to 21,725.70. Among the Sensex firms, Sun Pharma, Tata Motors, State Bank of India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid and UltraTech Cement were the major gainers.



Larsen & Toubro declined over 4 per cent after its December quarter earnings. Titan also ended lower from the 30-share pack. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower while Seoul settled in the green. European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended mostly down on Tuesday. “A positive build-up was reflected in

Indian markets prior to the interim budget, although expectations are low, the market anticipates a lower fiscal deficit supported by buoyant tax revenues. The overall trend in the market is akin to a saw-saw, and the buy-on-dips strategy is effective as of now. Global market cues are mixed ahead of the FOMC meeting, and US 10-year yields were marginally down,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.91 per cent to USD 82.12 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,970.52 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. The BSE benchmark fell by 801.67 points or 1.11 per cent to settle at 71,139.90 on Tuesday. The Nifty declined 215.50 points or 0.99 per cent to 21,522.10.

NEED TO BE PATIENT WITH LIKES OF GILL, IYER: RATHOUR

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The likes of Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer deserve patience amid their current poor run, said India batting coach Vikram Rathour on Wednesday, urging his wards to tackle England's aggression with intelligence in the second Test here.

The Indians lost the opening Test in Hyderabad by 28 runs despite having a 190-run first innings lead. England managed to shock the home favourites with their 'Bazball' approach with Ollie Pope scoring a match-winning 196. The second Test starts here on Friday.

"There are young batters in our team who have not played much Test cricket. So, we need to be a bit patient with them. Batters like (Shubman) Gill, (Yashasvi) Jaiswal and (Shreyas) Iyer will eventually start getting big runs, I'm sure of it," Rathour said at a press conference here.

Although Jaiswal played a knock of 80 in the first innings

of his fifth Test, Gill and Iyer failed to fire, continuing their struggles in the format. While Gill has played 21 Tests, Iyer has appeared in 13 five-day games.

Gill hasn't scored a 50 in his last nine Test innings. Iyer has been similarly off-colour.

Rathour said he expects better application from the side's batters in second Test where the home team will once again miss the services of the redoubtable Virat Kohli.

"There's a difference between playing with intent and playing attacking cricket. I want them to play with intent. If there is the opportunity to score some runs, they should take it," Rathour said.

"They need to decide by looking at the surface and conditions. So, the batters need to possess that intelligence as to which is the best or safest shot on the surface," he explained.

Rathour felt India's batting performance in the second innings of the Hyderabad Test probably lacked discipline.



"Could they have batted with more discipline? Maybe they could have. That's what they need to decide and come up with their plans," he observed.

"But, they need to score runs by playing their shots, as you need to back your strengths. Batting is always about scoring runs. It's not about not getting out but how many runs you put on the board," he said.

England used the sweep shot quite well to blunt the effectiveness of Indian spinners but Rathour said it's not a stroke that can be added overnight to a player's repertoire.

"...You need to be prepared for that by practising it. If you add more shots to your game, it's always beneficial. We played traditionally. The strength of strong areas is going straight when it comes to using our feet.

"We can keep doing that, and of course, if we can add more shots and score through the square of the wicket, that's always an addition," he said.

Rathour also heaped praise on the English batters for playing brave cricket, especially Pope, effectively taking the game away from Rohit Sharma's men.

However, he maintained that England's strong showing has not put his team under any additional pressure.

"They (England) were brave. They took their chances, which worked for them. The kind of innings Pope played was exceptional. I haven't seen too many playing such a knock against our bowling attack," he said.

"I don't think (there's any pressure). We are expected to win while playing in India, and the boys are used to that by now.

"The message to them from the support staff is to play good cricket and not bother about results too much. The other teams also come well-prepared. Since we have won Test matches in Australia, England and South Africa, we also expect them to win a Test in India."

Indian conditions up there with the hardest: Foakes

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

England's Ben Foakes feels the hardest for wicketkeepers as they require frequent improvisation and a tough mind prepared to deal with things occasionally going wrong.

Foakes, who made a Test comeback after 11 months, effected the stumpings of a well-set Ravichandran Ashwin and Mohammed Siraj in India's second innings that sealed England's epic 28-run win in the opening Test of the five-match series in Hyderabad. He also scored 34 in a crucial 112-run partnership with the star of the match Ollie Pope (196) that gave England the decisive lead.

"In conditions like this, it's about trying to think on your feet and learn because it's not natural conditions (for me)," the 30-year-old was quoted as saying by 'ESPNCricinfo'.

"I've obviously kept away a lot and kept to spinners, but I find that Indian pitches, with the variable bounce, are up there with the hardest.

"The more extreme the conditions you know things are occasionally going to wrong so you just have to mentally strong enough to put it out of your mind," he added.

The 30-year-old is bracing up for extreme conditions in the rest of the series as well.

"There is a good chance the next one is going to be a tough one.

"You're in the game, so it's nice as a keeper. It's obviously a very



hard place to keep, and you're aware of that. You're going to have some tough moments or a tough day. But you'd rather be in the game than watching the ball do nothing in front of you," he added.

In their tour of India in 2021, England had won the opening Test only to lose three in a row in the four-match series on rank-turners.

"All three were probably the worst pitches I've batted on. Going into that, I was thinking, 'These are horrific wickets — I just need to find a way to stay in,'" Foakes recalled.

Emphasising a shift in the team's mindset, he said: "I think now the group is more, if that's the situation, you've got to be positive; got to put it (pressure) back on the bowler and put them under pressure.

"Before, there was more of a

fear of getting out and that put us in our shells. Whereas now it's not worrying that you are getting out and accepting that you probably are on those sort of surfaces. But how can you actually go and dominate at times as well?"

Keeping the tough Indian conditions in mind, Foakes was chosen as the specialist wicketkeeper ahead of Jonny Bairstow.

"The thing I've tried to develop when I go in is if we lose a couple of wickets, to expand early," he said about his partnership with Pope.

"But I think generally, throughout my career, when there's been those kind of situations where you have to grind in is when I've been most successful. That's where I need to keep improving, so it fits quite nicely into my game."

Leach skips practice, unlikely to play in 2nd Test vs India

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

England's most experienced spinner Jack Leach is all set to miss the second Test against India starting here on Friday, owing to a left knee injury sustained during the series-opener in Hyderabad. Leach didn't take part in the team's training session on Wednesday and was seen receiving treatment from the physio on the sidelines.

"He's a tough kid, Leachy. So, I am not sure. You never know with Jack. You can never really write him off. We'll see how he pulls up in a couple of days," opener Zak Crawley said at the media conference here.

Leach had jarred his left knee while fielding on the first day of the Hyderabad



Test, which England won by 28 runs.

He played through pain, bowling 26 overs in the first innings and 10 in the second essay despite bruising and swelling around the joint. He was seen limping during Wednesday's training session.

Leach's injury means that off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, who joined the team late in Hyderabad due to visa related issues, could be set for Test debut.

Crawley is confident that Bashir, if given an opportunity, will do well.

"He is a great kid. He has got a lot about him. He knows what he is trying to do with his bowling and he backs himself. I like that and feel like if he got his chance in this series he would go well."

'It will be a tough choice between Sarfaraz, Patidar'

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

India's batting coach Vikram Rathour on Wednesday said it "will be tough" to pick one among Sarfaraz Khan and Rajat Patidar in the second Test against England.

The match begins here from Friday, with hosts India seeking to draw parity after losing the series opener in Hyderabad.

After the first game, India, faced injury concerns with all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul being ruled out of the second Test, in addition to the absence of star batter Virat Kohli. This forced the selectors to add uncapped Sarfaraz Khan, Sourabh Kumar and Washington Sundar to the squad, and Rajat Patidar also made the team.

"It will be a tough choice. What value they bring to the team, of course, is that they are superb players. We have seen how well they have done in domestic cricket in the last few years," Rathour said of the reinforcements during a press conference.

"So on these kind of wickets, I think they can really add a lot of value to the team."

He added, "If we have to pick just one out of them, of course, it would be tough. But, that decision will be made by Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma."

The playing XI will be finalised keeping in mind the conditions. "It (pitch) is difficult to predict. It will turn, maybe not from the first day, but eventually, it will turn. That's how the wicket looks like."

'NO QUESTION OF RECOVERY': India slipped to fifth place on the World Test Championship (WTC) table following the loss in Hyderabad and the hosts would be desperate to bounce back here. Rathour said that more than recovery, the players need to learn and move on.

"There's no question of recovery. You keep learning every game that you play. Of course, we could have done better in batting, bowling and fielding. A lot of discussions and ideas are being shared, preparing well and hoping to do well in the next game."

He expressed confidence in the players' ability to bounce back and cited India's unbeaten record in Test series at home since 2012. "We keep talking

about our batters (not scoring enough), but India has been winning a lot of series at home. We haven't lost a series at home for 12-13 years.

"It means we are putting up more runs than the other teams. These are tough conditions to score runs, but I'm sure that the batters will find a way." "Don't think players require too much coaching. At this level, Rathour said the players just need to act as per the situation. "Once you come to this level, I don't think you require too much coaching. It's about reading the situations and making smarter decisions. "As long as they are asking the right questions and receiving the right answers, there is no chance of over-coaching," he concluded.

Ashwin retains No 1 spot, Bumrah moves to 4th in ICC Test rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Senior India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin maintained the top spot, while compatriot Jasprit Bumrah jumped to fourth in the latest ICC Test bowling rankings released on Wednesday.

Ashwin, who had grabbed a match haul of six wickets in India's 28-run loss in the opening Test against England, is on 853 rating points, while pacer Bumrah, who also claimed half a dozen wickets, rose a rung to fourth.

The third Indian in the top 10 in the bowling charts is left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja at number six.

Jadeja also enjoys a healthy buffer at the head of the Test all-rounder rankings.

However, Joe Root, who has moved up to fourth place, might challenge him soon if the England veteran maintains his good show with the ball.

Change of Name	
I Sri Mohammad Yaqub Usmani S/o Sri Abdul Qadir of Passport and others Documents in wrongly name Mohammad Yaqoob (Yakub) Usmani S/o Abdul Qadir (Kadir) marked in the future my correct name SRI MOHAMMAD Yaqub Usmani S/O SRI ABDUL QADIR known.	

'Bazball' comes naturally to us: Crawley

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

England opener Zak Crawley on Wednesday said most of his teammates have become better players since embracing the ultra-aggressive 'Bazball' approach, which is way more compatible with their natural game than the traditional "take-your-time" strategy.

England upstaged India by 28 runs in the opening Test in Hyderabad despite conceding a 190-run first innings lead, showcasing a fighting attitude that stunned the pre-series favourites. England are yet to lose a Test since pioneering 'Bazball' under their New Zealand coach Brendon McCullum.

"I suppose it ('Bazball') comes quite naturally as a lot of our teams are playing more aggressively. The mindset

when I first came to England was to backlight or take your time and build a long innings and I didn't think that came naturally to me and a few of the others," Crawley said in a press conference ahead of the second Test starting here on Friday.

"A lot of us play a bit better under this regime," he added.

In contrast, India were also battling a selection crisis in addition to finding answers to their poor performance in Hyderabad after all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and top-order batter KL Rahul were ruled out due to injuries.

The hosts are already without mainstay Virat Kohli, who has opted out of the first two Tests citing personal reasons.

Asked what it would mean for the English team, Crawley said his team is more focussed on



its performance and planning.

"...We haven't spoken about that. It sounds cliched but we stick to our own lead up ... We don't bother about what they are doing," Crawley said when asked if the absence of the duo is a boost for England.

"Two very good players missing out but I'm sure looking at their depth they

have two very good players coming in. So, that won't change anything for us too much. We're just trying to play the same, read the conditions on day one and see what happens for there," he added.

India have drafted in Sarfaraz Khan, Washington Sundar and Sourabh Kumar to replace the injured duo. The hosts also

have the option of playing Rajat Patidar, a domestic veteran.

After the loss in spin friendly conditions in Hyderabad, there is a lot of chatter surrounding the possible nature of wickets that the hosts will prepare for the second Test starting here on Friday. Crawley that's not a concern either.

"They're absolutely a top side in their own conditions. There are four games left, we have got to stick to what we do well and hopefully results come from there," he said.

England underwent an extended training camp in Abu Dhabi to prepare for the series in India and Crawley feels the camp benefitted them even though some former players had criticised the team for not landing in India early.

Office Municipal Council Jatara District Tikamgarh (M.P.)

Email- cmojatara@mpurban.gov.in Phone- 07681-299011

S.N./258/N.P./TENDER/2024

JATARA DATE- 29.01.2024

Notice Tender Invitation

In a centralized system for construction work, online tenders are invited from contractors registered in the Public Works Department for the following works. Detailed description of the tender can be seen on the website <http://www.mptenders.gov.in>

S. No.	Tender No. /Issued Date	Work Name	Time period/ estimated cost of Work (in lakhs)	Price of tender form and EMD	Last date of tender
1	2024_UAD 328743_1 30/01/2024	In ward number 05, construction work of CC road from Chhorwai Tigaila to the access road Abdal Saheb Road and in ward number 03, construction work of CC road on the access road Devi Nagar from Sahu ji's house near Mandi Gate. (M.M.S.A.Yo.-Fourth Stage)	(1) 06 Month (2) 18986892.00/-	(1) 12500/- (2) 95000/-	01.03.2024

Note: Any kind of publication related to the tender will be done online on the website of <http://www.mptenders.gov.in>. it will not be published separately in the newspaper.

Chief Municipal Officer
Nagar Parishad Jatara

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHHATARPUR (M.P.)

N.I.T. No/576/SBM/e-tendering/2024

Chhatarpur, Date 24.01.2024

Notice Inviting e-Tenders (II CALL)

Online percentage rate bids for the following work are invited from registered Contractors and firms of repule fulfilling registration criteria. The following works and same will be received online at <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> as per key dates.

Tender No.	Name of Work	Poertable Amount (Rs. In)	EMD Amount (In Rs)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs)	Period of Completion (in months)
1	2	3	4	5	6
328881	Selection of Contractor for The Work of "Legacy Waste Dumpsite Remediation through Bioremediation, Biomining and disposal of Residual waste" in Nagar Palika Parishad Chhatarpur	6,39,27,600	319638.00	20000.00	05 months

Note:-

1. The Besides intending to particulars in this tender are required to get enrolled/registered on the e-procurement website <https://www.mptenderes.gov.in> and get empanelled on the sub portal of public empanelment on the above portal and sub is mandatory.

2. Tender documentation can be purchased from 30.01.2024 (10:30 AM) to 01.03.2024 (5:30 PM) & Bid submission only online from <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> by making online payment of portal fees as online processing charges last date 01.03.2024 up to 5:30 PM.

3. Tender Opening Date 04.03.2024 by 11:00 Hrs. The bidder can participate and submit the tender having registration in equivalent category in Government of Madhya Pradesh.

4. The brief tender notice and all the conditions and specifications can be seen in details in the tender document. The NIT is also available at www.mpurban.gov.in

5. Amendment to NIT, if any would be published on website not in newspaper.

6. For details on tendering procedure through the electronics tendering system, please refer to guidelines for using Electronic tendering System Documents available along with tender documents at portal <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>

Chief Municipal Officer
Municipal Council Chhatarpur (M.P.)



BCCI secretary Shah reappointed ACC chairman for third term in a row

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah was on Wednesday appointed as the president of the Asian Cricket Council for a third consecutive term.

Shah's extension was proposed by the Sri Lanka Cricket president Shammi Silva for the second time and the nomination was unanimously backed by all the members of the ACC at its annual general meeting in Bali.

Shah initially assumed the role in January 2021, succeeding Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan.

Under Shah's leadership, the ACC successfully organised the Asia Cup in T20 format in 2022 and in ODI format in 2023.

"I am grateful to the ACC Board for their continued trust. We must remain committed to ensuring the all-round development of the sport with a special focus on regions where it is still in its infancy.

The ACC is committed to nurturing cricket across Asia," Shah said in a release.

"Under Shah's guidance, the ACC has been instrumental in unearthing and promoting new talent in cricketing powerhouses like Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka,"

Silva said.

Pankaj Khimji, chairman of Oman Cricket and vice-president of the ACC, also extended congratulations on Shah's term.

"Today, stakeholders see value in investing in tournaments that the ACC conducts, and I credit him for this major transformation, which will further fuel the growth of the game in the region," Khimji stated.

Welcoming the reappointment, Hassan said cricket in Asia will continue to prosper under Shah's leadership, emphasising collaboration with the ACC in furthering this endeavor.



युवाओं के सपने साकार करती मध्यप्रदेश सरकार



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



“ प्रदेश में रोज़गार के अवसर बढ़ें, अधिक से अधिक उद्योग यहां स्थापित हों। प्रदेश का चहुँमुखी विकास हो, हम सुशासन और सुव्यवस्थाओं को स्थापित करें, प्रदेश सरकार का यही संकल्प है। ”

- डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

रोज़गार दिवस



डॉ. मोहन यादव
मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा
7 लाख युवाओं को
₹5 हजार करोड़
का स्वरोज़गार ऋण
वितरण

अब तक 57 लाख से अधिक युवाओं को
₹ 40 हजार करोड़ का ऋण वितरित



45.89 लाख बहनों को
₹ 450 में
गैस सिलेंडर रीफिल योजना में
₹ 118 करोड़ की
अनुदान राशि का अंतरण

1 फरवरी, 2024 – अपराह्न 2:30 बजे – कृषि उपज मंडी प्रांगण, मुरैना, मध्यप्रदेश

ग्वालियर-अहमदाबाद के मध्य
अकासा एयर उड़ान
का वर्चुअल माध्यम से
शुभारंभ

कृषि मेला

एवं
विकास कार्यों का
लोकार्पण और भूमिपूजन

सीधा प्रसारण



Webcast.gov.in/mp/cmevents



@Cmmadhyapradesh
@jansampark.madhyapradesh



@Cmmadhyapradesh
@jansamparkMP



JansamparkMP